



Vice President Joe Biden, center, leads a group across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., Sunday, March 3, 2013. They were commemorating the 48th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when police officers beat marchers when they crossed the bridge on a march from Selma to Montgomery. From left: Selma Mayor George Evans, U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Ala., Rev. Jesse Jackson, Biden, Rev. Al Sharpton and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

Morsi Pledges Reap Rewards

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday rewarded Egypt for President Mohammed Morsi's pledges of political and economic reforms by releasing \$250 million in American aid to support the country's "future as a democracy."

Yet Kerry also served notice that the Obama administration will keep close watch on how Morsi, who came to power in June as Egypt's first freely elected president, honors his commitment and that additional U.S. assistance would depend on it.

"The path to that future has clearly been difficult and much work remains," Kerry said in a statement after wrapping up two days of meetings in Egypt, a deeply divided country in the wake of the revolution that ousted longtime President Hosni Mubarak.

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in Cairo, Egypt on Sunday, March 3, 2013.
(AP Photo/J. Martin)

Biden leads homage to "Bloody Sunday" march

PHILLIP RAWLS
Associated Press

SELMA, Alabama (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden and black leaders commemorating a famous civil rights march on Sunday said efforts to diminish the impact of African-Americans' votes haven't stopped in the years since the 1965 Voting Rights Act added millions to voter rolls in Southern states that had practiced racial segregation. More than 5,000 people followed Biden and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma's annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The event commemorates the "Bloody

Sunday" beating of voting rights marchers — including a young Lewis — by state troopers as they began a march to Montgomery in March 1965. The 50-mile (80-kilometer) march prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act that struck down impediments to voting by African-Americans and ended all-white rule in the South. Biden, the first sitting vice president to participate in the annual re-enactment, said nothing shaped his consciousness more than watching TV footage of the beatings. "We saw in stark relief the rank hatred, discrimination and violence that still existed in large parts of the nation," he

said. Biden said marchers "broke the back of the forces of evil," but that challenges to voting rights continue today with restrictions on early voting and voter registration drives and enactment of voter identification laws where no voter fraud has been shown. Voter identification laws have largely been supported by Republicans who insist they are needed to prevent voter fraud. Democrats contend such laws suppress minority voter turnout because a higher percentage of blacks and Latinos than white lack the government-issued documents such as a driver's license or passport that

some states require to cast a vote.

"We will never give up or give in," Lewis told marchers.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a prominent civil rights leader, said Sunday's event had a sense of urgency because the U.S. Supreme Court heard a request Wednesday by a mostly white Alabama county to strike down a key portion of the Voting Rights Act. "We've had the right to vote 48 years, but they've never stopped trying to diminish the impact of the votes," Jackson said.

Continued on page 4



People demonstrate in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, March 3, 2013. Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Venezuela's capital on Sunday, demanding the government provide complete details about the health of ailing Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Protesters demand details on Chavez

C. TOOTHAKER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Venezuela's capital on Sunday, demanding the government provide complete details about the health of ailing President Hugo Chavez. At the same time, Chavez supporters staged their own rally in the city. Protesters waving Venezuelan flags chanted "Tell the Truth!" as they marched through eastern Caracas. They accused government officials of keeping from the public a full account of Chavez's condition. "They don't tell us the truth," complained Mildred Moreau, a 64-year-old woman who said Chavez isn't healthy enough to govern the country. "We feel that they are trying to

trick us."

The protest was staged a day after Vice President Nicolas Maduro said Chavez has been receiving chemotherapy while recovering from a severe respiratory infection. Chavez underwent cancer-related surgery on Dec. 11 in Cuba and has not been seen or heard from since, except for several "proof of life" photos released Feb. 15 before he returned to Venezuela. Officials have sent mixed signals about Chavez's condition, sometimes saying he's recovering and at other times saying he's battling for his life. Sunday's marchers joined university students who have chained themselves together near a Supreme Court office while also demanding a full account of

Chavez's health and urging justices decide if he's healthy enough to remain in office.

"We are going to stay here until they tell the truth, until they give an explanation about his state of health and say if he's in a condition to govern," said Johan Gomez, a 23-year-old university student with chains wrapped around his arms and waist. On the other side of the city, government supporters gathered in front of a stage to listen to pro-Chavez musicians and demonstrate their support for the socialist leader. "Here is the youth that represents the future of the fatherland," said pro-Chavez governor Tareck El Aissami. Referring to opposition-sided students, El Aissami said: "They represent the past." □

AROUND THE WORLD

Ex-soldier in Jamaica accused of murder

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — An ex-soldier in Jamaica accused of killing his common-law wife and her mother has surrendered to police. Investigators say former Jamaica Defense Force soldier Jason Pryce shot both women in their home in southern Jamaica.

Pryce's 27-year-old wife succumbed to her injuries on Sunday, a week after the shooting. Her mother was declared dead at the crime scene.

Police launched a manhunt for the ex-soldier, and the Jamaica Constabulary Force announced Sunday that Pryce had turned himself in. Authorities say arrangements are now being made for Pryce to be interviewed in the presence of an attorney. □

Sabic halts plans to build Trinidad plant

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Petrochemical giant Saudi Basic Industries Corp. says it is halting plans to develop a \$5.3 billion methanol complex in the energy-rich Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago. In a Sunday statement, Sabic said it decided not to continue with negotiations for the planned complex after the "relevant parties did not reach a deal on the fundamental conditions for this project." No specifics on the differences were disclosed. The project was expected to be a partnership with Sinopec Corp., one of China's three major state-owned oil companies. Sabic announced a year ago that it hoped to develop the methanol plant in Trinidad. □

Minister: ECB must do more for jobless

PARIS (AP) — A French official says the European Central Bank is shirking its responsibilities toward Europe's unemployed and should do more to weaken the euro to help exports. Industrial Recovery Minister Arnaud Montebourg's comments go against a custom that politicians not meddle in the ECB's work. Montebourg told Europe 1 radio Sunday: "It's not dealing with growth. It's not taking care of the unemployed. It's not taking care of the European people. And it has a duty to do so." He called on ECB President Mario Draghi to buy the debt of European countries. The ECB has a program to do just that — but countries must first agree to reforms. □

Puerto Ricans make push for statehood

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hundreds of people in Puerto Rico and the U.S. are marching to demand that the territory become the 51st state. Supporters gathered Saturday in the capital of San Juan to request that President Obama honor the results of a November referendum regarding the island's political status. In the referendum's first question, 54% of voters said they were not content with commonwealth status. Of the about 1.3 million voters who made a choice, nearly 800,000 supported statehood, some 437,000 favored sovereign free association and 72,560 chose independence. But nearly 500,000 left the question blank. □

North Sea oil rig leak sparks evacuation

LONDON (AP) — The TAQA oil company says dozens of workers have been evacuated from a North Sea oil platform after a hydrocarbon leak was detected. The Abu Dhabi-based company says 71 of the 145 workers on the Cormorant Alpha platform were taken off the rig off the northeast coast of Scotland on Saturday. The company says in a statement that no hydrocarbons spilled. The platform and all pipeline infrastructure were shut down as a precaution. The incident marks the second time this year that the platform had to be partially evacuated following the discovery of a leak. □

In Vatican, Dolan urges Catholics to look beyond conclave

MICHAEL PAULSON

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VATICAN CITY – The cavernous nave of St. Peter's Basilica was nearly empty when Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan arrived Sunday morning, shortly after dawn, a fading moon still hanging in the sky, and red streaks of sunlight illuminating the facade.

Dolan, the archbishop of New York, is a morning person – most days, he likes to get up at 5 and walk or exercise before his morning prayers – and on this last quiet day before the process of selecting a new pope begins Monday, he was raring to go – to celebrate a Mass, to start the day, to begin the conclave.

"I'm eager to get started," he said. "Let's go. Let's go, let's get home."

Dolan is one of 115 cardinal-electors expected Monday morning at the Vatican's New Synod Hall, along with dozens of retired cardinals who are invited to participate in the conversations but who cannot vote in the ensuing conclave because they are over 80. The cardinals plan to meet for several days in what they call "general congregation" to get to know one another and to discuss issues facing the church globally; during their meetings, they will also pick a start date for the conclave.

Dolan has spent the last several days meeting with other church officials, doing interviews with reporters, and taking care of more ordinary tasks – on Saturday visiting a friend in the hospital and on Sunday taking New York's seminarians and priests in Rome to lunch. Dolan has said, "I never like to come to Rome without saying Mass at St. Peter's sometime during my stay," so on Sunday that is what he did. He employed a small chapel in the basilica's grottoes, and invited about 20 people, including author George Weigel and members of the New York news media, to take part. Anne Thompson, an NBC News correspondent, was

a reader during the liturgy. "We're all here to follow the extraordinary events with the departure of Benedict XVI, the election of a new successor of St. Peter," Dolan said. However, he said, the celebration of Mass is more significant. "We've got to keep in mind – you know what, even more important than the pope is what we're doing right now," he said. "The life of the church goes on, and the life of the church centers around what we're doing right now."

He celebrated the Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady Queen of the Hungarians, a contemporary worship space that honors the experience of Hungarian Catholics. Dolan, a fan of sports metaphors, noted that the chapel was "just a

9-iron shot from the tomb of St. Peter."

In his brief homily, the cardinal made a passing reference to the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., saying that in biblical times

individuals tried to discern what God was doing, just as people today look at the massacre and "try to figure out what happened," or try to understand God's role in "tragedy and sickness and suffering in our own life."

Those are understandable questions, the cardinal suggested, but, he said, "Don't try to be figuring out God's will out there all the time – try to figure out what God is asking you to do inside."

Dolan said the task of the next pope was not to make change in the church but to preserve the church's traditions.

"That's the very nature of the papacy, is to hand on faithfully what God told us of Jesus, what Jesus told his apostles, and what his apostles hand on to us – tradition, with a capital T," he said.

"Many of you professional, excellent journalists ask, very often, 'Do you think the new pope will make changes in the church?'" he added. □



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York, shades his eyes from the sun in Vatican City.

(AP Photo/Angelo Carconi)

Kerry: US releasing millions in aid to Egypt

Continued from Front

Egypt is trying to meet conditions to close on a \$4.8 billion loan package from the International Monetary Fund. An agreement would unlock more of the \$1 bil-

lions in U.S. assistance promised by President Barack Obama last year and set to begin flowing with Kerry's announcement. "The United States can and

wants to do more," Kerry said. "Reaching an agreement with the IMF will require further effort on the part of the Egyptian government and broad support for reform by all Egyptians. When Egypt takes the difficult steps to strengthen

treme needs" and Morsi's "assurances that he plans to complete the IMF process" when he told the president that the U.S. would provide \$190 million of a long-term \$450 million pledge "in a good-faith effort to spur reform and help

will be tied to successful reforms, officials said. Separately, the top U.S. diplomat announced \$60 million for a new fund for "direct support of key engines of democratic change," including Egypt's entrepreneurs and its young people.

Kerry held out the prospect of U.S. assistance to this fund climbing to \$300 million over time.

Recapping his meetings with political figures, business leaders and representatives of outside groups, Kerry said he heard of their "deep concern about the political course of their country, the need to strengthen human rights protections, justice and the rule of law, and their fundamental anxiety about the economic future of Egypt."

Those issues came up in "a very candid and constructive manner" during Kerry's talks with Morsi.

"It is clear that more hard work and compromise will be required to restore unity, political stability and economic health to Egypt," Kerry said.

Syria and Iran were topics of discussion, according to officials. □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, walks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, as Kerry arrives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Sunday, March 3, 2013. Saudi Arabia is the seventh leg of Kerry's first official overseas trip, following a stop in Egypt.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

lion in U.S. assistance promised by President Barack Obama last year and set to begin flowing with Kerry's announcement.

"The United States can and

its economy and build political unity and justice, we will work with our Congress at home on additional support."

Kerry cited Egypt's "ex-

the Egyptian people at this difficult time." The release of the rest of the \$450 million and the other \$550 million tranche of the \$1 billion that Obama announced



Biden leads homage to “Bloody Sunday” march

Continued from Front

Referring to the Voting Rights act, another civil right activist, the Rev. Al Sharpton, said: “We are not here for a commemoration. We are here for a continuation.”

The Supreme Court is weighing Shelby County's challenge to a portion of

the law that requires states with a history of racial discrimination, mostly in the Deep South, to get approval from the Justice Department before implementing any changes in election laws. That includes everything from new voting districts to voter identification laws.

Attorneys for Shelby County argued that the pre-

clearance requirement is outdated in a state where one-fourth of the Legislature is black. But Jackson predicted the South will return such moves as eliminating black-majority districts and holding more at-large elections to diminish black voting strength if the Supreme Court voids part of the law.

U.S. Attorney General Eric

Holder, the defendant in Shelby County's suit, told marchers that the South is far different than it was in 1965 but is not yet at the point where the most important part of the voting

2006, it understood that the act makes sure minority inclusion is considered up front.

“It reminds us to think consciously about how we can include all our citizens in

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Vice President Joe Biden gets a key to the city from Selma Mayor George Evans in Selma, Ala., Sunday, March 3, 2013. Biden and others participated in the Bridge Crossing Jubilee which celebrated the 48th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

rights act can be dismissed as unnecessary.

Martin Luther King III, whose father led the march when it resumed after Bloody Sunday, said, “We come here not to just celebrate and observe but to recommit.”

One of the attorneys for the NAACP civil rights organization who argued the case, Debo Adebile, said when Congress renewed the Voting Rights Act in

democracy. That is as important today as it was in 1965,” he said.

Adebile said the continued need for the law was shown in 2011 when undercover recordings from a bribery investigation at the Alabama Legislature included one white legislator referring to blacks as “ab-origines” and other white legislators laughing.

“This was 2011. This was not 1965,” he said. □

New York City: Expectant parents die in crash; infant survives



Hundreds of people attend the funeral of Nathan and Raizi Glauber, who were killed on their way to the hospital, in the Brooklyn borough of New York, March 3, 2013.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A pregnant young woman who was feeling ill was headed to the hospital with her husband early Sunday when the car they were riding in was hit, killing them both, but their baby boy was born prematurely and survived, authorities and a relative said.

The driver of a BMW slammed into the car carrying Nachman and Raizi Glauber, both 21, at an intersection in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, said Isaac Abraham, a neighbor of Raizi Glauber's parents who lives two blocks from the scene of the crash.

Raizi Glauber was thrown from the car and her body landed under a parked tractor-trailer, said witnesses who came to the scene after the crash. Nachman Glauber was pinned in the car, and emergency workers had to cut off the roof to get him out, witnesses said.

Both of the Glaubers were pronounced dead at hospitals, police said, and both died of blunt-force trauma, the medical examiner said. Their son was in serious condition, Abraham said. The hospital did not return calls about the infant. The Glaubers' livery cab driver was

treated for minor injuries at the hospital and was later released. Both the driver of the BMW and a passenger fled and were being sought, police said.

On Saturday, Raizi Glauber "was not feeling well, so they decided to go" to the hospital, said Sara Glauber, Nachman Glauber's cousin. Abraham said the Glaubers called a car service because they didn't own a car, which is common for New York City residents.

The Glaubers were married about a year ago and had begun a life together in Williamsburg, where Raizi Glauber grew up in a prominent Satmar Orthodox Jewish rabbinical family, Sara Glauber said.

Raised north of New York City in Monsey, New York, and part of a family that founded a line of clothing for Orthodox Jews, Nachman Glauber was studying at a rabbinical college nearby, said his cousin.

Brooklyn is home to the largest community of ultra-Orthodox Jews outside Israel, more than 250,000. The community has strict rules governing clothing, social customs and interaction with the outside world. Men wear dark clothing that includes a long coat and a fedora-type hat and often

have long beards and ear locks.

Jewish law calls for burial of the dead as soon as possible, and hours after their deaths, the Glaubers were mourned by at least 1,000 people at a funeral outside the Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar synagogue. Men in black hats gathered around the coffins in the middle of the street, while women in bright headscarves stood on the sidewalk, in accordance with the Orthodox Jewish tradition of separating the sexes at religious services. The sound of wailing filled the air as two coffins covered in black velvet with a silver trim were carried from a vehicle. □

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New Orleans: Power failure blamed for water loss

J. McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Taps in New Orleans briefly went dry Sunday after a boiler's heating flame went out of control in the plant supplying electricity for the city's water treatment.

Marcia St. Martin, executive director of the city's Sewerage and Water Board, said the outage lasted less than 20 minutes Sunday morning. Twitter came alive with residents bemoaning the loss about 9 a.m. Central time, and Mayor Mitch Landrieu tweeted to his followers that the city was looking into the matter.

Martin said the loss of pressure opened the way for possible contamination, and water samples are being taken citywide.

She said all sample collection should be complete by Sunday afternoon, and results should be available about 24 hours later. It takes that long to detect the presence of potentially dangerous bacteria.

Officials have advised more than 300,000 residents on the Mississippi River's east bank to boil water for drinking, brushing their

teeth or preparing food for at least 24 hours.

Most of New Orleans, including the French Quarter and Central Business Dis-

trict, is on the east bank. The treatment plant there provides about 135 million gallons (511 million liters) of drinking water a day, compared with 11 million gallons (41.6 million liters) from the west bank treatment plant.



Chris Antonucci re-stocks water after a power failure at a pumping station caused a widespread drop in water pressure, in New Orleans triggering a boil water advisory issued for New Orleans on Sunday morning, March 3, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michael DeMocker)

In October, a similar problem occurred at the east bank plant. City officials were criticized because

they did not put out a notice that tap water might be contaminated until four hours after the plant shut down. A power problem in

November 2010 also created similar conditions.

Across the city Sunday, some residents and businesses readied water supplies to use under the boil advisory.

At Zeus' Place, a pet boarding and daycare business, owner Michelle Ingram said she was using bottled water for the 80 dogs and 7 cats there.

Biden may take on wider role in U.S. foreign policy

MARK LANDLER

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WASHINGTON — When Secretary of State John Kerry was scrambling last week to prevent the leader of the Syrian opposition from boycotting a meeting with him in Rome — a snub that could have spoiled his maiden voyage as the nation's chief diplomat — he leaned on an old Senate colleague to help him out: Vice President Joe Biden.

After Kerry extracted an agreement from the Syrian, Mouaz al-Khatib, to show up, Biden sealed the deal with a follow-up call. The vice president, who had met al-Khatib at a security conference in Munich, praised him for his courage, told him how important the meeting was and promised to stay in touch, according to the White House.

It was a classic example of how Biden has used personal relationships to amass influence in the Obama administration — a talent that current and former officials predicted would allow him to further expand his influence on foreign policy during President Barack Obama's second term.

Biden will pivot to another part of the Middle East on Monday, when he will set the stage for Obama's first presidential trip to Israel later this month, in a speech to the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, an influential pro-Israel lobbying group.

Biden, officials said, used his ties on Capitol Hill to champion another unpopular cause: Chuck Hagel, also an old Senate friend. With Hagel under attack over his positions on Iran and remarks he made about Israel, officials said Biden worked the phones to reassure skeptical senators and help eke out his confirmation for defense secretary.

Just as important to Biden's rise is his role in policy debates. In addition to pushing for a faster timetable for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, he was also among those who opposed supplying weapons to the rebels in Syria — a proposal developed by David H. Petraeus, the former director of the CIA, and supported by Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the secretary of state.

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San Francisco's 'other' bridge prepares to shine

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — After more than 75 years in the shadow of its glamorous cousin, San Francisco's "other" bridge is getting a chance to shine.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge has been turned into the latest — and by far the biggest — backdrop for New York artist Leo Villareal, who has individually programmed 25,000 white lights spaced a foot (30 centimeters) apart on 300 of the span's vertical cables to create what is being billed as the world's largest illuminated sculpture.

Villareal, 46, whose previous installations have included an underground walkway at the National Gallery of Art and the Bleecker Street subway station in Manhattan, is scheduled to flip the switch on "The Bay Lights" with a click of his laptop computer on Tuesday at 9 p.m. (0500 GMT Wednesday). Donors attending a private waterfront reception will see it set to music, but the work, which uses sequences of shifting light to produce an almost-infinite array of abstract patterns, will be visible to anyone with a view of the western half of the bridge for at least the next two years. "People are attracted to light and they will respond in a variety of ways, even if they don't know anything about art, programming or technology," he said one evening late last month while fine-tuning the shimmering display from a pier next to San Francisco's Ferry Building. "It's really a wonderful piece of public art."

For Ben Davis, a San Francisco public relations and

communications professional who conceived of the idea of turning the busy Bay Bridge into a 1.8-mile (2.9-million kilometer)-long canvas, the \$8 million project represents a long-overdue celebration of a conduit that has been eclipsed by the Golden Gate Bridge almost from the time its concrete set. It opened to

great acclaim in November 1936 — at the time it was the world's longest and most expensive bridge — but lost the limelight with the opening of the majestic Golden Gate five months later.

"Those bridges are sort of like twins, one very beautiful, one very hard-working," said Davis, whose interest in

the Bay Bridge was sparked by his firm's work promoting the soon-to-be-completed rebuilding of the bridge's earthquake-damaged eastern span. "For 75 years, the Bay Bridge has had this pleasure of being able to see the Golden Gate Bridge. Now, we are giving its sister something really beautiful to look at for

a while."

But it was at Burning Man, the annual art and music festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, that the artist found his medium. In 1997, he built a light sculpture as a homecoming beacon for his tribe's camp site. In the years since, his creations have been featured in galleries and museums around the world, although he still sits on the festival's board and attends every summer. "People focus a lot on the lights, but in a way the most interesting thing about his work is that it's really dealing with algorithms, it's really about emerging software, unpredictable software," said Steven Johnson, author of "Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation" and a longtime friend of Villareal's. "Because of technology and software really being so central to the Bay Area, to have its great epic urban art project be fundamentally all about code, it's just pretty much a marriage made in heaven."



Minimal lights are turned on along the western half of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on Pier 14 in San Francisco.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Rodman: Kim Jong Un wants Obama to call

M. SALCEDO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea's young leader has riled the U.S. with recent nuclear tests, but Kim Jong Un doesn't really want war with the superpower, just a call from President Barack Obama to chat about their shared love of basketball, according to unlikely diplomat Dennis Rodman, the ex-pro basketball star just back from an improbable visit to the reclusive communist country.

"He loves basketball. ... I said Obama loves basketball. Let's start there" as a

way to warm up relations between the U.S. and North Korea, Rodman told ABC television's "This Week" on Sunday.

"He asked me to give Obama something to say and do one thing. He wants Obama to do one thing, call him," said Rodman, who called the authoritarian leader an "awesome guy" during his trip. The State Department criticized North Korea last week for "winning and dining" Rodman while its own people go hungry.

Rodman also said Kim told him, "I don't want to do

war. I don't want to do war."

Yet in January, after the U.N. Security Council voted to condemn the North's successful rocket launch in December and expand penalties against Kim's government, his National Defense Commission said in a statement that "settling accounts with the U.S. needs to be done with force, not with words." The statement also promised "a new phase of the anti-U.S. struggle that has lasted century after century."

North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of

the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. The foes technically remain at war. They never signed a peace treaty and do not have diplomatic relations. Rodman was the highest-profile American to meet Kim since Kim inherited power from his father Kim Jong Il in 2011. He traveled to the secretive state with several members of the Harlem Globetrotters team for a new HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television. The visit took place amid rising tensions between the countries.

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New Chinese leader burnishes his military support

CHRIS BUCKLEY

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HONG KONG – On the eve of the National People's Congress, the chief of China's Communist Party, Xi Jinping, is emphasizing his role as a champion of the military, using the armed forces to cement his political authority and present a tough stance in growing territorial disputes with American allies in the Pacific region.

Xi will be appointed president at the end of the Congress, the party-run parliament that opens Tuesday for an annual session of about 10 days. The 2,987 carefully vetted delegates are also virtually certain to approve another rise in military spending, after an 11.2 percent increase to \$106 billion in the 2012 defense budget. The new budget is expected to show another robust increase, probably in the same vicinity as last year, Western analysts said.

Since Mao Zedong rode to victory in a revolutionary war, the country's Communist leaders have regarded an utterly loyal military as the ultimate shield of their political power. Nearly four months since his appointment as party chief in November, Xi has made that shield his own, with greater speed and sureness than his recent predecessors.

"Compared with the two previous leaders at a similar stage, Xi has already established closer, better relations with the military. They didn't come to power with the same confidence," said Chen Ziming, an independent commentator in Beijing who studies party affairs.

Beyond being the only member of the powerful seven-member Politburo Standing Committee to also sit on the Central Military Commission, Xi already leads the military body, which controls the People's Liberation Army. The Chinese military owes its paramount loyalty to the party and its leader, not the civilian government. In private, Xi has said absolute military obedience to the party is essential to ensuring the Chinese Communist Party is not wiped out like its Soviet counterpart.



Chinese President Hu Jintao, Communist Party chief Xi Jinping, and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, look at Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), going to greet a delegate after the opening session of the CPPCC in Beijing's Great Hall of the People Sunday, March 3, 2013.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

Bombing kills at least 37 in Karachi

SALMAN MASOOD

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ISLAMABAD – Two powerful explosions ripped through a predominately Shiite neighborhood in the Pakistani city of Karachi on Sunday evening, in a bomb attack that killed at least 37 people and wounded at

least 90, police and rescue officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attack fit the pattern of a brutal militant campaign of violence against Pakistan's Shiite minority over the past year that is widening the country's sectarian divisions.

The blasts occurred in Abbas Town, a large Shiite district of Karachi, badly damaging two apartment blocks. Several apartments caught fire as gas lines ruptured from the force of the explosions.

Rescue workers rushed the dead and wounded to local hospitals. With dozens more people trapped

under the wreckage, the death toll was expected to rise.

Police officials said the first blast, which was heard miles away, appeared to have been set off by a car bomb. The nature of the second blast remained unclear; some police officials speculated that it may have been caused by a gas cylinder.

Fayaz Leghari, the provincial police chief, told local news media that the city police force had been on alert in anticipation of such an attack given the Sunni militant campaign against Shiites. The most notorious group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, claimed responsibility for

two blasts in the western city of Quetta that killed almost 200 people, mostly from the Hazara Shiite minority. But there have been signs that such Sunni extremist groups are also bent on stepping up their bloody campaign in Karachi, Pakistan's largest and most volatile city.

Leghari said the Karachi police had apprehended two explosives-laden vehicles in recent weeks but denied suggestions there had been specific intelligence that forewarned Sunday's blast. Last month, Interior Minister Rehman Malik warned of possible attacks in Karachi and Quetta.

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Iran, Syria condemn assistance as rebels advance

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Following rebel gains, the leader of the Syrian opposition made his first visit Sunday to areas near the embattled northern city of Aleppo as fighters trying to oust President Bashar Assad captured a police academy and a border crossing along the frontier with Iraq.

Assad, meanwhile, lashed out at the West for helping his opponents in the civil war, delivering a blistering rebuke to Secretary of State John Kerry's announcement that the U.S. will for the first time provide medical supplies and other non-lethal aid directly to the rebels in addition to \$60 million in assistance to Syria's political opposition. Aleppo, the nation's largest city, has been a major front in the nearly 2-year-old uprising. Government forces and rebels have been locked in a stalemate there since July.

Mouaz al-Khatib met Sunday with Syrians in the two rebel-held Aleppo suburbs of Manbah and Jarabulus, a statement said. The stated goal of his trip — his first since being named the leader of the Syrian National Coalition late last year — was to inspect living conditions. But his foray to the edge of Aleppo also could be an attempt to boost his group's standing among civilians and fighters on the ground, many of whom see the Western-backed political leadership in exile as irrelevant and out of touch. The territorial gains are a significant blow to Assad, although his forces have regained control of several villages and towns along a key highway near Aleppo International Airport — an achievement that could



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, welcomes Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, for their meeting, in Tehran, Iran. Iran and Syria condemned a U.S. plan to assist rebels fighting to topple Assad on Saturday and signaled the Syrian leader intends to stay in power at least until 2014 presidential elections. (AP Photo/Mahdi Marizad)

signal the start of a decisive battle for Syria's commercial capital.

Also Sunday, the government troops launched an offensive in central Syria, sweeping through Latakia and Hama provinces, trying to dislodge rebels from towns and villages. The army also shelled opposition strongholds around Damascus, pounding areas such as Harasta, Daraya, Douma and Zbadani with artillery and airstrikes in what opposition groups said were the regime's "desperate attempts" to reverse the rebel advances.

The rebels have trying to

storm the capital for weeks, pushing ever closer to Assad's seat of power.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based opposition group, said the rebels seized the police academy in Khan al-Asal after entering the sprawling government complex with captured tanks.

At least 120 regime soldiers and 80 rebels were killed in the fighting, according to Observatory director Rami Abdul-Rahman. He said the rebels control all buildings inside the complex, which was abandoned by Assad's forces early Sunday. Assad maintains his

troops are fighting "terrorists" and Islamic extremists seeking to destroy Syria, and he accuses the West and its Gulf Arab allies of supporting them in achieving their goal.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, Assad criticized the U.S. and Britain for sending financial and other non-lethal aid to the opposition. He set harsh terms for talking to his opponents, dialing back earlier hints of flexibility about talks.

He told the British newspaper that he is ready for dialogue with armed rebels and militants, but only if they surrender their weapons. Recently, the Syrian government offered to participate in talks, but didn't address the question of laying down arms.

"We are ready to negotiate with anyone, including militants who surrender their arms. We are not go-

ing to deal with terrorists who are determined to carry weapons to terrorize people, to kill civilians, to attack public places or private enterprise and to destroy the country," Assad said in the interview, conducted in Damascus. "We fight terrorism."

The opposition, including fighters on the ground and the Syrian National Coalition umbrella group, has rejected talks with Damascus until Assad steps down, a demand he has repeatedly rejected. Kerry met Thursday with Syrian opposition leaders in Italy, where he said the U.S. will for the first time provide the non-lethal aid directly to the fighters in addition to \$60 million in assistance to the political opposition. Assad said the "intelligence, communication and financial assistance being provided is very lethal."

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Queen Elizabeth hospitalized over stomach illness

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was hospitalized Sunday over an apparent stomach infection that has ailed her for days, a rare instance of ill health sidelining the long-reigning monarch. Elizabeth will have to cancel a visit to Rome and other engagements as she recovers, and outside experts said she may have to be rehydrated intravenously. Buckingham Palace said the 86-year-old queen had experienced symptoms of gastroenteritis and was being examined at London's King Edward VII Hospital — the first time in a decade that Elizabeth has been hospitalized. "As a precaution, all official engage-

ments for this week will regrettably be either postponed or cancelled," the palace said in a statement. Elizabeth's two-day trip to Rome had been planned

to start Wednesday. A spokeswoman said the trip may be "reinstated" at a later date.

The symptoms of gastroenteritis — vomiting and diar-

able people. Dehydration is a common complication. The illness was first announced Friday, and Elizabeth had to cancel a visit Swansea, Wales, on Saturday to present leeks — a national symbol — to soldiers of the Royal Welsh Regiment in honor of Wales' national day, St. David's Day. She instead spent the day trying to recover at Windsor Castle, but appears to have had trouble kicking the bug.

A doctor not involved in the queen's treatment said that if medical officials determined that she is losing too much fluid, she would be rehydrated intravenously. "Not everyone can keep up with oral hydration so it is pretty routine to go to hospital and have a drip and wait for the thing to pass and keep yourself hydrated," said Dr. Christopher Hawkey of the University of Nottingham's faculty

of medicine and health sciences. Britain's National Health Service says that the two most common causes of gastroenteritis in adults are food poisoning and the norovirus, a common winter vomiting bug which typically afflicts between 600,000 and 1 million Britons each year. British health guidelines advise that people with the norovirus avoid work for at least two days. "It's very infectious and strikes in winter because people are indoors and it spreads more easily," Hawkey said.

Elizabeth has ruled since 1952 and is Britain's second-longest serving monarch, beaten only by Queen Victoria in terms of the number of years spent on the throne. Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip, 91, has had several hospital stays, but Elizabeth has rarely let sickness get in the way of her still-busy schedule.



British police officers stand guard outside the King Edward VII hospital in London where Queen Elizabeth II was admitted to be assessed for symptoms of gastroenteritis, Sunday, March 3, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

rhea — usually pass after one or two days, although they can be more severe in older or otherwise vulner-

China:

Quake destroys 700 homes, injures 30

BEIJING (AP) — A moderate earthquake struck southwest China on Sunday, causing hundreds of homes to collapse and injuring at least 30 people. The earthquake bureau in Yunnan province, where the quake occurred, said three of the injured people were in serious condition. The official Xinhua News Agency said the quake damaged 2,500 houses and caused 700 others to collapse.

About 55,000 people were affected by the quake, Xinhua said, citing Yunnan's Civil Affairs Department. Supplies were on their way to the quake-hit area, including 6,000 tents. The magnitude-5.5 quake



Firefighters work on a damaged building after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit Eryuan County of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Sunday, March 3, 2013.

(AP Photo/Xinhua, Ge Shangneng)

struck 51 kilometers (32 miles) from the city of Dali at a depth of 33 kilometers (20 miles), according to the

U.S. Geological Survey. About 34 aftershocks were recorded after the quake, Xinhua said.

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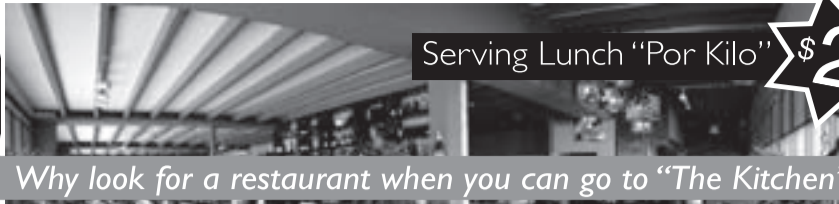
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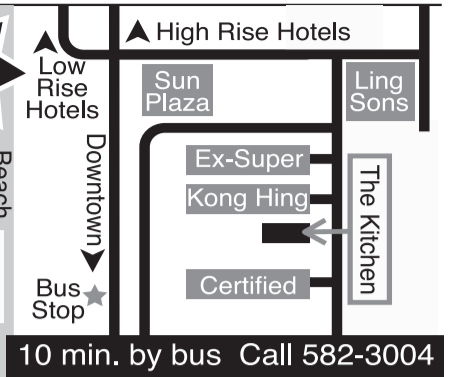


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Army sent into Bangladesh as clashes persist

JULHAS ALAM
Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— Authorities deployed soldiers in a northern Bangladeshi district on Sunday after Islamic party activists clashed with police, leaving five people dead during a nationwide general strike called to denounce war crimes trials. Seven people died in similar clashes in the northwest, police and news reports said. With the latest casualties, the death toll in four days of rioting climbed to 58. The clashes broke out Thursday after a war crimes tribunal sentenced a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamic party, to death for atrocities committed during Bangladesh's 1971 independence war against Pakistan. Delwar Hossain Sayedee was the third defendant to be convicted by the tribunal, which was set up in 2010 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

Bangladesh says the war left 3 million people dead, 200,000 women raped and forced millions to flee to neighboring India.

Tensions escalating in Borneo standoff

FLOYD WHALEY

© 2013 New York Times

MANILA, Philippines — Seven people were reported killed, and four hostages taken, as fighting continued Sunday in the Malaysian state of Sabah over a historic claim to the area by a religious group from the southern Philippines. The Malaysian government said the police and military presence in the area was being doubled, while the religious group said an undetermined number of supporters from the southern Philippines had entered the area to reinforce those supporting the claim.

The Malaysian and Philippine navies have stepped up patrols in the waters between Sabah and the southern Philippines, which can be traversed in a speedboat in a little more than an hour. Five Malaysian police officers and two of their attackers were killed in an ambush Saturday, officials said Sunday. The Malaysian state news agency Bernama reported Sunday that villagers near the ambush had beaten to death a man suspected of being one of the attackers. That brought the death toll from fighting in the area to at

least 21.

On Friday, 12 members of the Filipino religious group and two Malaysian commandos were killed during a failed attempt to capture the group that had been holding a small village on the eastern coast of Borneo island since Feb. 12. A spokesman for the group, whose members claim to be heirs to the sultanate of Sulu, which ruled parts of

northern Borneo for centuries, said Sunday that its forces on Sabah had taken hostage a Malaysian police officer, two soldiers and a government official.

"We advised the people on the ground to take care of them, to feed them, so that in case there shall be international agencies to investigate the matter we can present those four captured government officials

of Malaysia as witnesses to the atrocities committed by the government of Malaysia," the group's spokesman, Abraham Idjirani, said Sunday.

Bernama quoted Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak on Sunday as saying the violence had been limited to three areas of Sabah: Lahad Datu, where the group originally arrived, and the nearby areas of Semporna and Kunak.

"The people of Sabah should not be fearful of their safety," the prime minister was quoted as saying. He added that Malaysian forces were operating in the areas affected by the violence.

"Let's give them the opportunity and time to carry out their operations and overpower the group and rescue those in need," he said.

On Sunday, Malaysian officials urged Sabah residents to remain calm and said resorts and other tourist facilities in the area remained open.

"More fatalities may be expected, and as a nation we must come together to rally behind our forces," said Liew Vui Keong, the deputy prime minister of Malaysia, according to Bernama.



A Malaysian police commando stands guard near the area where the stand-off with Filipino gunmen took place in Tanduo village, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia on Sunday, March 3, 2013.

(AP Photo/Bernama News Agency)

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European carmakers to get serious at Geneva show

SARAH DILORENZO
AP Business Writer

PARIS (AP) — The Geneva Motor Show has long had a reputation as one of the glitziest stops on the global auto show circuit — the place to unveil luxury models and out-of-this-world fantasy concept cars. But this year the dire state of the European auto industry will hang over the exhibition halls. Hit by fleeing customers, struggling economies and idle production lines, the region's carmakers need to make tough decisions if they are going to survive.

Paul Newton, an analyst at HIS Automotive, an industry consulting firm, says no broad themes have emerged ahead of this week's show and no landmark unveilings are expected — a sign of the industry's malaise and uncertainty. He argues that European automakers need deep restructuring — not just a set of flashy new wheels.

"The Koreans are taking customers from somewhere. And it would appear that these guys are taking customers from the mass-market, established European players," said Newton.

While the European financial crisis has sent unemployment soaring and led to a sustained fall in overall retail sales across the region, Europe's auto companies were struggling even before the global financial crisis hit in 2008. They have long had far more factory floor space and employees than they need to produce the number of cars they can reasonably expect to sell.

This is reflected in the poor results of the Geneva Motor Show's European exhibitors: Last year, Fiat's profit fell 73 percent, while

Renault's dropped 15 percent. PSA Peugeot Citroen posted a record €5 billion (\$6.5 billion) loss. Of the major European auto groups, only Volkswagen is thriving — profit rose 41 percent in 2012, although that was

cording to data from consultancy PwC. Analysts say sales probably won't climb back to the 2007 peak before at least 2020.

One reason for the poor financial performance is idle factory floors. A report by

pensive than in many competitor countries thanks to rigid labor agreements that drive up wages and offer generous benefits. Those same agreements also make it difficult to transfer jobs elsewhere.

plans by PSA Peugeot Citroen to trim its excess capacity by closing its Aulnay plant and eliminate 8,000 jobs. "The principles behind egalite and fraternite and all the rest are great if you can afford it," said New-



Workers dust a car at the Mini booth during last preparations prior to the opening of the press preview days at the 83rd Geneva International Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, March 3, 2013. The Motor Show will open its gates to the public from March 7 to 17, presenting more than 260 exhibitors and more than 130 world and European premieres.

(AP Photo/Martial Trezzini)

less than expected.

Meanwhile in the U.S., both General Motors, which will be debuting a convertible Corvette at the show, and Ford recorded healthy — but reduced — profits as strong sales in the U.S. covered losses in Europe.

Even if Europe's carmakers were better able to compete on a global stage, their home market is suffering. Car sales across Europe fell for the fifth year in a row in 2012, pulling back another 7.8 percent, ac-

analysts Alix Partners found that at the height of production in 2007, the industry in Europe was only using 83 percent of its capacity. It's expected to be around 75 percent for the next couple of years. One way carmakers in the U.S. have turned around their operations is by dealing with their own overcapacity problem, shutting 18 factories in four years; Europe has yet to bite the bullet.

On top of this, building a car in Europe is more ex-

The high costs of labor and the overcapacity at factories both conspire to eat into profits — which could otherwise be re-invested in innovation and technology to capture new customers. The only way forward, analysts say, is to become leaner by tackling uncompetitive labor regulations and closing factories.

This may be harder in some countries than others. In recent months, for instance, the French government and unions have fought

ton of the generous French contracts that also hamper other European manufacturers. "The problem is France really can't afford it when it's competing with people who basically make better products at a cheaper price."

Volkswagen, which is expected to unveil a new GTI model in Geneva, has benefited from Germany's more flexible labor laws, which have helped it keep costs lower and continually push innovation. □



New dog laws welcomed by island animal advocates!

ORANJESTAD -- A recent official bulletin announced to the public that a National Ordinance passed in the local parliament has laid down rules of dog ownership on the island. The Dog Regulations as set by the Minister of Justice and Education, A. L. Dowers, in the name of the Queen states that pet owners have to care for their dog, by providing food, water, shelter, protection and medical care.

The law now secures all the basics governing dog ownership, and it also dictates the licensing and registration of dogs considered dangerous, putting special measures in place for certain specific breeds, also empowering the authorities, including police officers and special agents, to act on violations.

Dog owners are now required by law to care for their animals "with enough food of sufficient quality, sufficient drinking water of sufficient quality AND shelter from sun, rain and wind." The law establishes the right of the animal for medical care by a veterinarian, and even if the animal is chained, it must enjoy sufficient room to walk around as it pleases.

Best of all, the Minister responsible for matters of public health, has the power to implement the law. And the law specifically says that dogs cannot have free access to public highways or other people's property, and that dogs must be fenced in, in their owner's yard. Owners cannot allow their dogs to roam the street, they have to be kept in, so they do not become a nuisance to neighbors.

The law implies that the practice of having an owned-stray in now a legal offense: A dog is either owned and taken good

care of, or he is a stray, and available for adoption by other people.

The economic implications of the law include the expenses of keeping a pet, which now fall directly on the owner and include food, shelter and annual vaccinations.

The new law however differentiates between breeds stating that the Minister responsible for matters of public health, decreed that dogs and dog breeds which may endanger the safety of humans and animals, are designated as dangerous dogs. Among them the following: American Staffordshire Terrier, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Caucasian Owtsarka, Mastino Napolitano, Pitbull Terrier

those varieties. Those dogs now have to be licensed. They also must be insured.

And muzzled in public. Those deemed as dangerous dogs will have to be neutered. While the new

tached, to preempt violations. While the legislator should be congratulated for passing a law that requires owners to treat dogs well, some critics of the text report that it somewhat missed the mark. The legislator should have stipulated the registration of all dogs, requiring a license for all pests, recommending the spaying and neutering of all not just quote, unquote dangerous breeds. Additionally according to island veterinarians, there are no dangerous dogs, only irresponsible owners, and the law fails to comprehensively regulate dog ownership in general here. But it's a start.

Additionally, dog fights are now a criminal offense on the island. □



document provides many stipulations there are penalties and sanctions at- □

Attention dog & cat owners:

ARA's Spay & Neuter campaign underway!

ORANJESTAD - Animal Rights Aruba now offers greatly discounted Spay & Neuter services at all three vet clinics on the island, so that dog and cat owners can choose between Contreras Veterinary Services, in Shaba and Savaneta, VKA in Noord, Wayaka and San Nicholas or Animal Care Clinic, in Paradera. Dog & Cat owners are urged to take advantage of the offer, as Animal Right

Aruba subsidizes the procedure by partially paying the vets for the operation. Dog & Cat owners are expected to participate with a very reasonable contribution. The prices for Spaying & Neutering services may vary a bit between the clinics, but the following is Animal Right Aruba's guideline: For a male dog, owner's contribution is Awg 50, for a female dog, owner's contribution is Awg

100, and for cats, owner's contribute between Awg 20 to Awg 30.

Animal Rights Aruba spokesperson declares that everyone can now afford to have their pets fixed, improving animal welfare on the island, and reducing the number of unwanted puppies and dogs on the street.

Contreras Veterinary Services NV, Shaba 2, Tel.: 297-587-0917 / 297-587-

4467, Savaneta 117 Lokaal 2, 297-584-0918. www.convet-aruba.com, convet@setarnet.aw

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Hyatt Regency Aruba honors "The Best of the Best" for 2012!



PALM BEACH – Recently during a lively party done "Fiesta Mexicana-Style," the Hyatt Regency Aruba announced their top Associates, Managers and Supervisors for 2012. While all of the employees of the Hyatt Regency Aruba are outstanding in every way, each year there are those who stand out among their

colleagues. For 2012, it was no easy decision for Hyatt Regency Aruba's General Manager Fred Hoffmann to narrow down the winners, but those who took home the honors were: Hubert Perez, a sixteen-year veteran at the Hyatt Regency Aruba, who took the honor of Associate of the Year 2012 out of 194 candi-

dates; and out of another pool of 40 excellent candidates, Carily Yarzagaray, ten years with the Hyatt Regency Aruba, won Supervisor of the Year 2012 for the Hotel Division; Jovino Wolf, also with sixteen years at the Hyatt Regency Aruba, won Supervisor of the Year 2012 for the Casino Division; and Casino Slot Supervisor



Jeffrey Croes, celebrating ten years of service with the Hyatt Regency Aruba was also honored! Congratulations to the winners

and to all of the Associates, Managers and Supervisors who are the engine behind the Hyatt Regency Aruba's everlasting success! □

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Laurra Vidcomi

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MANCHEBO BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very loyal and friendly couple, as Ambassadors of Goodwill at the Manchebo Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit

Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Jay and Mary Hardiman from Waltham, Massachusetts. Jay and Mary love Aruba very much because of the friendly people of Aruba, especially the friendly staff of the Manchebo Resort.

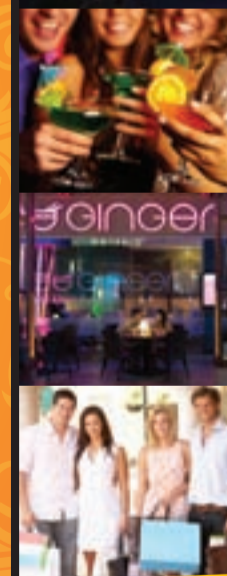
They also love the beaches, the beautiful

weather, the safety, the relaxing atmosphere and lots of memories from the 31 years they have been visiting Aruba. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with GM Edgar Roelofs and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort. □

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Sizzling Caribbean Stud Poker at the Casino at the Radisson

PALM BEACH - Jeronimos Pefanis won a \$4,326 jackpot, when he was dealt a Straight Flush this weekend at the Casino at the Radisson. Pefanis he is joining the Winner's Hall of Fame at the casino, where players such as Ronald Causley - \$4,793 jackpot for a Straight Flush – have been testing their skill and luck recently with great success.

The Casino at the Radisson makes more than just one jackpot available. The Caribbean Stud Poker Jackpot currently stands on over \$40,000, while the Bingo Progressive available to all bingo players each Saturday & Sunday boasts \$28,832. Aruba's most popular poker room, at the Casino at the Radisson offers a Bad Beat Jackpot of \$52,564. Additionally, In March during Aruba's Nation Day weekend, the casino will be hosting three consecutive bingo marathons, on the 16th, the 17th, and the 18th, which is the island's Aruba Dag. Orlando Vrolijk on the casino's marketing team reports that a great number of fun activities are scheduled for that holiday weekend, and the general public is invited. □



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



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New York Knicks guard Jason Kidd, right, fouls Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) during the second half of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, March 3, 2013.

Associated Press

Heat rally past Knicks, win 14th straight

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — LeBron James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists as the Miami Heat tied a franchise record with their 14th straight victory, rallying to beat the New York Knicks 99-93 on Sunday.

Dwyane Wade added 20 points for the Heat, who had to overcome a 16-point deficit to beat the Knicks for the first time in three tries this season. Chris Bosh bounced back from a dismal first half to finish with 16 points.

The defending NBA champions won their sixth straight on the road by controlling the final minutes against a team that had a pair of 20-point victories over them this season and looked ready to run them out of the building again.

Continued on page 18



Carl Edwards performs a flip in front of his crew as he celebrates winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Avondale, Ariz. Associated Press Page 20

Heat Rally

Continued from page 17

But James shook off a third-quarter leg injury and was back in top form by the finish, putting it away by coming up with a steal and throwing down a dunk with 23 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points for the Knicks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. Jason Kidd emerged from a lengthy slump to finish with 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Knicks. J.R. Smith had 13 points and 12 rebounds but shot 5 of 18 from the field.

The Heat matched their 14 straight wins during the 2004-05 season and finally beat one of their closest pursuers in the Eastern Conference after dropping



Miami Heat forwards LeBron James (6) and Chris Andersen (11) guard New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) during the second half of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, March 3, 2013.
Associated Press

ping their first four against the Knicks and Indiana Pacers.

James landed awkwardly when he was fouled trying to catch a lob pass in the third quarter and was trying

to loosen his left knee or leg after. He looked fine in the closing minutes, making key plays on both ends of the floor.

Bosh tied it at 87 and Wade's basket with 4:29

gave Miami the lead for good. James then blocked Tyson Chandler at the rim and hustled down the floor to put back a Miami miss, making it 91-87.

The Knicks twice were within two, but James scored on a drive the second time. Bosh followed with a jumper for a 97-91 advantage, and after two free throws by Raymond Felton, James ended the Knicks' final hopes when he stepped in front of pass headed toward Anthony and broke in alone for the slam as Anthony hung his head near halfcourt.

The Knicks beat Miami here by 20 in their season opener and won again in Miami in early December by 20, even while playing without Anthony because of a cut on his finger that required stitches.

This looked headed for another blowout.

Kidd missed all 14 3-point attempts in the last three games and had been in a 7-for-49 slump behind the arc since Feb. 1, finally losing his starting job before Friday's victory at Washington.

But he made a 3 early in

the second quarter, then hit three more during a 20-10 surge that turned Miami's one-point lead into the Knicks' 49-40 advantage.

The Knicks then rattled off eight in a row late in the period, opening a 59-43 lead on a free throw by Iman Shumpert with 36 seconds to go.

The only concern for the Knicks came when Anthony went to the locker room before the half ended after being hit in the ribs, but was back when the second half started.

Kidd would've been perfect in the period, but was credited with a shot attempt when he jumped to save a pass that was going out of bounds along the sideline and just heaved it toward the basket in one motion.

The Knicks' two victories over the Heat came during their 18-5 start, when they seemed championship capable. But they had been just 17-15 since, falling into a tie for second with Indiana in the East, and were being frequently dismissed as a serious threat to the Heat.

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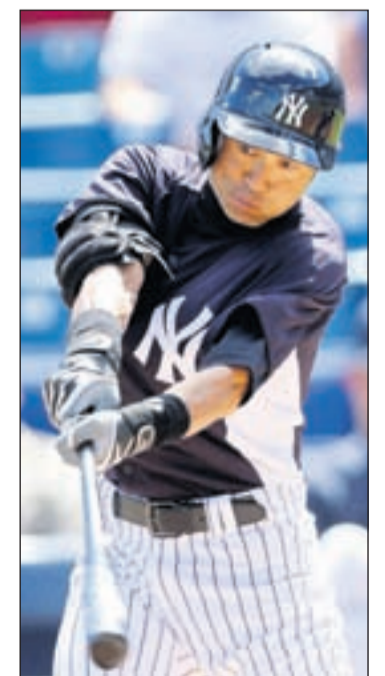
Suzuki OK after traffic accident

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Yankees outfielder Ichiro Suzuki is fine and has no soreness one day after being involved in a traffic accident.

Suzuki was on his way home after Saturday's spring training game against Detroit when the accident occurred a few miles from Steinbrenner Field in Tampa.

Suzuki said on Sunday his SUV was totaled in the accident. He had a green light when he was hit by another vehicle in an intersection. The driver of the second vehicle was cited by police. Suzuki says he's grateful that no one was hurt in the incident.

New York manager Joe Girardi expects Suzuki to play in Tuesday night's game against Atlanta. The Yankees are off on Monday.



New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki, of Japan, hits a single off Toronto Blue Jays' Brandon Morrow during the first inning of a spring training exhibition baseball game, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, in Tampa, Fla.
Associated Press

Lewis holds on to capture HSBC Women's Champions

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — American Stacy Lewis won the HSBC Women's Champions on Sunday for her sixth career LPGA title, overcoming two bogeys and some shaky putting on the back nine to hold off South Korean Na Yeon Choi.

Lewis, the 2012 LPGA Player of the Year, shot a 1-under 71 in the final round at Sentosa Golf Club to finish at 15-under 273, one stroke ahead of Choi in second place.

"The last four or five holes, I was pretty nervous, I'm not going to lie," Lewis said. "I just played hard and put my head down and tried to make as many putts as I could and fortunately I came away with the win." Choi, who had a 72, was runner-up at the \$1.4 million tournament for the second consecutive year. She lost to Angela Stanford in a four-player playoff last year.

Paula Creamer, hampered by a shoulder injury from a car accident last week in Thailand, briefly held a share of the lead early in the day, but struggled with her putting on the back nine and faded to third at 13-under 275.

Top-ranked Yani Tseng shot a 74 to finish a disappointing week in a share of 28th place.

Lewis started the day tied with Choi atop the leaderboard, but she was able to put some distance between herself and the second-ranked South Korean with a superb shot on the par-5 7th hole.

After a long drive off the tee, Lewis hit a perfectly placed, 200-yard shot toward the pin that stopped about five inches short of going in for an albatross. She tapped it in for eagle, which put her one clear of Choi and two up on Creamer.

"It was probably one of the best shots I've ever hit," Lewis said. "It had to be pretty close. I couldn't really tell from where I was but it was perfect."

On the back nine, however, the 28-year-old American had to battle nerves and a determined challenge by Choi to take home the trophy.

Leading by two shots on the 15th, Lewis hit her tee shot into the water for the second time this week and slammed her club into the turf in frustration. She took a bogey on the hole, allowing Choi to pull within one. "I hit the fairway (on 15) in the practice rounds, but I did not hit it on any tournament day," she said. "I had two in the water and two in the bunker."

"Today I was just glad to get out of there with a bogey."

Then, on the 17th, Lewis hit into the bunker off the tee and missed a long par putt to card her second bogey of the back nine.

That gave Choi one last chance to even the score on the 18th, but she pulled her birdie putt wide by an inch. Lewis exhaled deeply after making her own par putt for the win.

"I tried to do my best until the last hole," Choi said. "Last year, I finished runner-up, too. I went into the playoff and lost. I really wanted to win this week." Lewis and Choi had their putting woes, but it was almost worse for the 26-year-old Creamer, who was aiming for her 10th LPGA title. □



Stacy Lewis of the United States poses with the challenge trophy after winning the HSBC Women's Champions golf tournament on Sunday, March 3, 2013 in Singapore.

Associated Press

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Thompson wins Honda for 1st tour title

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — On a long, hard Sunday at the Honda Classic, Michael Thompson relied on a superb short game to win for the first time on the PGA Tour.

Thompson seized control early with a 50-foot eagle putt on the third hole, then kept his distance with clutch par saves and closed with a birdie from the bunker. It gave him a 1-under 69 — one of only five rounds under par at PGA National — and a two-shot win over Geoff Ogilvy.

"This week was magical," Thompson said. "Just had a groove and kept feeling it."

It was a big week for Ogilvy, too.

The former U.S. Open champion had plunged to No. 79 in the world ranking and already missed the Match Play Championship.

He was prepared for another week off next week until putting together four solid rounds.

He chipped in from behind the 16th green for birdie and two-putted for birdie on the 18th for a 69. The runner-up finish moves him into the top 50 (No. 47) and gets him into the World Golf Championship at Doral.

Luke Guthrie, tied with Thompson for the 54-hole lead, fell behind with a bogey on the second hole and closed with a 73 to finish third.

Tiger Woods was never in the picture.

He started the final round eight shots behind, and whatever hopes he had of a rally ended on the sixth hole when he hit his drive so far to the right that the ball was never found.

Woods took double bo-



Michael Thompson kisses his trophy after winning the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 3, 2013 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

gey, and only an eagle on the final hole kept the damage to a minimum. He closed with a 74 — his first time since the Masters last year that he failed to break par in any round of a 72-hole tournament — and tied for 37th.

It was the second straight year Woods closed with an eagle at PGA National — the difference was last year, it gave him a 62 and a tie for second.

"I passed 62 somewhere around 12," Woods said.

Despite a bogey on the final hole, Erik Compton had a 70 and was part of the five-way tie for fourth. Compton, who already has had two heart transplants, earned his first top-10 finish on the PGA Tour.

Thompson, who finished at 9-under 271, had made only one cut this year. He was solid from the start Sunday on another windswept day in south Florida, one of only three players who shot

par or better all four rounds. "You don't have to do much wrong to be making a bogey out there, so it's pretty impressive," Ogilvy said of Thompson's final round. "It's a great effort, really. As you say by the rest of the scores, it's a very hard golf course and it seems to get progressively harder in some ways. There's a disaster waiting everywhere."

"There's a lot of golf courses on tour that it might be easy to close out a golf tournament — or easier — but this is not one of them." Thompson dropped only one shot on the back nine, a three-putt on the 16th when he missed from just inside 3 feet. He rattled another short par putt in on the 17th, and then played away from the water on his second shot at the par-5 18th, into a bunker. Once his ball stopped rolling 4 feet from the cup, the tournament was over.

Nicklaus says McIlroy will be fine by Masters

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Jack Nicklaus says there's no reason to be alarmed: Rory McIlroy is probably frustrated with his game and his adjustment to new equipment.

McIlroy, the No. 1 player in the world and defending champion at the Honda Classic, caused a stir this week when he walked off the course after eight holes at PGA National when he was 7 over for the second round. He told reporters he was "not in a good place mentally," and an hour later issued a statement attributing his withdrawal to a sore wisdom tooth.

He signed with Nike dur-

ing the offseason. In three starts this year, McIlroy has missed the cut, lost in the opening round of the Match Play Championship and withdrew from the Honda Classic after 26 holes.

"Rory is so talented," Nicklaus said during a visit to the NBC Sports booth at the Honda Classic. "He's a good kid."

I think he's a little frustrated, and he's frustrated at himself right now. He's probably not playing his best, and he also has a set of golf clubs that he's having trouble getting used to, and one sort of plays off the other. He'll be fine. When Augusta rolls around, he'll be fine."



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the 10th hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

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Carl Edwards ends long drought at Phoenix

JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

AVONDALE, Arizona (AP)—

Carl Edwards pulled away on a late start to snap a 70-race winless streak Sunday, the second long drought he's ended at Phoenix International Raceway.

Edwards broke the longest slump of his career by winning at Phoenix in 2010. He won for the first time since Las Vegas in 2011 by leading the final 78 laps on the 312-mile race around PIR's odd-shaped oval.

Coming off a miserable week at Daytona, where he wrecked five cars, Edwards got a push from defending Sprint Cup champion Brad Keselowski on the restart with two laps left. He pulled away to win the first non-restrictor-plate race with NASCAR's new Gen-6 car. Edwards did his celebratory backflip for the first time in nearly two years, then went into the stands to celebrate with the fans — just like he did after his last win at PIR.

Daytona 500 winner Jimmie Johnson was second by inches and Denny Hamlin finished third with a bold pass on the apron during the final lap. Keselowski was fourth and Dale Earnhardt Jr. ended up fifth.

The last race at Phoenix, in November, set up Keselowski for his first Sprint Cup title after Johnson blew a tire. It also featured quite a sideshow.

A running feud between Clint Bowyer and Jeff Gordon boiled over late in the race, setting off a brawl in the pits and Bowyer on a WWE-style dash to Gordon's hauler.

The drivers tried to downplay the confrontation after arriving in the desert this week, but it's been hard to avoid, with video of

the scrap-and-dash being shown all over in promos for the race and in replays. The only running this time was Ryan Newman: across the track and away from his car after it blew a right-front tire for the second time in 140 laps.

Inside his car, Mark Martin failed in his bid to become the oldest Sprint Cup winner. The 54-year-old became the second-oldest driver to start up front in a Sprint Cup car, a few months short of Harry Gant's mark. Martin led the first 49 laps and 26 more later on, but couldn't sustain it in his bid to become the oldest Sprint Cup winner, finishing 21st.

Danica Patrick had a rough follow-up to her breakthrough week at the Daytona 500.

She became the first woman to win a pole and lead green-flag laps during NASCAR's season-opener, sending her popularity to a new level.

Patrick couldn't stay with the leaders at Phoenix, ending her day with one of the hardest hits of her career. It happened with about 100 laps left, when the right-front tire on Patrick's No. 10 Chevrolet went down and slammed her into the wall.

Patrick's car careened back into David Ragan, flipping her hood over the windshield and shredding the left front fender as protective foam from the driver's side door flew onto the track.

She came to a stop along the inside wall with a trail of debris covering about half the home straightaway behind her. She climbed from the car and was quickly cleared by the medical center.

"Whenever those right-



Carl Edwards gives a fist pump to his pit crew as he walks with the checkered flag after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

fronts go, they always hit hard because you don't broadside, you hit more straight on," said Patrick, who finished 39th. "It took

a hard hit both sides and I'm fine, so NASCAR is doing a good job at safety. But no real good warning. The car wasn't all that tight

and most of the (problems) were in the rear, so there was no real vibration that told me that was going to happen."

Carpet-bombing our microbiota: Here's why we need germs!

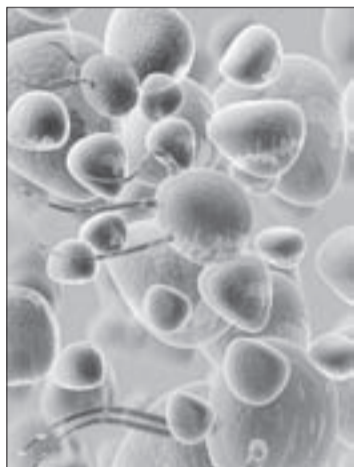
SHARON BEGLEY

© 2013 The Saturday Evening Post

We are vastly, ridiculously, hopelessly, humbly out-numbered: For every one human cell, there are an estimated 10 single-cell microbes in us or on us, at least 100 trillion in all, nestled in our guts and in our urogenital tracts, lying on our skin and happily ensconced in our mouths and noses – entire civilizations of fungi and protozoa and (mostly) bacteria that eat and breathe, evolve and reproduce and die. Before you reach in horror for the hand sanitizer or industrial-strength mouthwash, you might want to keep something in mind. Our microbial hitchhikers, collectively called the "human microbiota," play a key role in maintaining our health. And we disrupt them at our peril. In an effort to obliterate disease-causing microbes through antibiotics and other anti-microbials – from the pills prescribed to the meat we eat to the hand-sanitizer dispensers every-

where you look – we are carpet-bombing our microbiota. And that war on germs has taken a toll on beneficial bugs, too.

For example, the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, which causes ulcers and is



Featured are typical staff germs found under human fingernails, as seen under a microscope.

(Handout Photo)

linked to stomach cancers, was once in almost everyone's gut. It is now found in just 6 percent of U.S. children, *Science* magazine reported in 2011, probably due to the widespread use of anti-microbials.

That should mean fewer

ulcers, but there's a dark lining to that silver cloud: *H. pylori* may ward off asthma. To study this, scientists infected half of a colony of mice with the bacteria and left the other half germ-free. They showered the entire colony with dust mites and other allergens. Mice with *H. pylori* were fine; those without the bacteria suffered airway inflammation, the hallmark of asthma.

It isn't just asthma. The list of illnesses linked to the population of microbes in our bodies seems to get longer every month, but here's a quick tour.

— **Chronic sinusitis.** Scientists led by Susan Lynch of the University of California, San Francisco, reported the nasal microbiota of chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS) patients had low levels of good-for-you bacteria and abnormally high levels of not-so-good bacteria. When the scientists replicated the microbiota of CRS patients in mice, the animals developed sinusitis. Transplanting the good

bug into mice inhibited the growth of sinusitis-causing bacteria and prevented infection.

— **Excessive appetite.** *H. pylori* – of ulcer-causing fame – regulate the stomach's production of ghrelin, an appetite-stimulating hormone. Several labs have found that people whose stomachs harbor more *H. pylori* have less ghrelin and thus less hunger; conversely, fewer *H. pylori* means more ghrelin and greater likelihood of overeating.

— **Autoimmune diseases.** The microbes in your gut play a role in regulating your immune system and therefore autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's, researchers at the Mayo Clinic and elsewhere have found. One powerful gut bacterium has anti-inflammatory properties, protecting against recurrence of Crohn's disease. More generally, the immune system seems to consider some gut microbes dangerous

invaders, unleashing an attack that produces the inflammation characteristic of arthritis and Crohn's.

— **Atherosclerosis.** Patients with this disease characterized by hardening of the arteries had different types of gut bacteria than healthy people, scientists reported in *Nature Communications* last December. In particular, atherosclerosis patients' gut bacteria had fewer genes for the production of natural antioxidants linked to heart health; patients therefore had less of these antioxidants in their blood.

— **Obesity.** The field of microbiota and health took off in 2006, when scientists led by Jeffrey Gordon of Washington University in St. Louis transferred gut bacteria from obese mice into thin ones. The thin mice ate no more than they used to, but they quickly started gaining weight. "Some microbes change how efficiently we metabolize food," explains biologist Rob Knight of the University of Colorado, who studies the genetics of the microbiota, called the microbiome.

The National Institutes of Health launched the Human Microbiome Project to study the role the microbiome plays in health and disease. Based on samples from 242 healthy 18- to 40-year-olds, the scientists announced the microbiome consists of some 8 million functional genes, or 360 times as many genes as those in our own DNA. "It's like a second genome," says Colorado's Knight, one of the project scientists. Where all this leaves someone who wants to cultivate healthy microbiota is only starting to become clear. Until scientists can give us the recipe for healthy microbiota, experts say it pays to heed the advice of mainstream medical groups, which recommend restricting the use of antibiotics to only must-have circumstances, not every cough and sniffle. Consider buying antibiotic-free meat. □

Stress Less: Get Your Beauty Sleep

© 2013 Good Housekeeping

When you catch the proverbial 40 winks each night, everything improves. Your skin becomes firmer and better hydrated, so it has a youthful glow. Sleep enhances memory, so your mind stays quick and agile, and it reduces inflammation in the body, helping to fight age-accelerating conditions such as wrinkles, heart disease, diabetes, and arthritis. Most people need from six to eight hours of sleep. Find out what works for you and then try to consistently hit that mark. To enjoy a nightly age-defying snooze, try to develop better before-bed habits.

- Stick to a schedule It will be easier for you to fall asleep at night if you turn in and wake up at the same time every day. If you occasionally miss your bedtime during the week, you can use the weekend

to catch up, but you'll feel most rested if you keep the same hours nightly.

- Log off: That little charging light emitted by computers, mobile phones, answering machines, and PDAs is enough to suppress melatonin, the sleepiness hormone, so try to end screen time at least an hour before bedtime. Keep ambient light low, too, and don't watch TV in bed. Turn off appliance lights (face your alarm clock away from you; charge other devices in another room), and invest in a sleep mask or even blackout curtains if streetlights are visible.

- Eat earlier: Stop eating one to two hours before bedtime. The digestion process increases blood flow to the digestive tract and makes it difficult to stay asleep. The one exception: If you're having trouble drifting off, a light combo of protein and carbs may help. Carbohydrates help

your brain use tryptophan, an amino acid that causes sleepiness. And proteins help your body build tryptophan. Snack on peanut butter on toast or low-fat cheese and crackers.



'Beauty sleep' is not just an expression, but a physiological reality.

(Handout Photo)

- Wind down: The more active your mind, the less shut-eye you'll get. Give yourself time in the evening to relax, even if that means you have to set a cut-off time of 7 or 8 p.m.

for e-mails and household chores.

- Count blessings, not sheep: In a British study, survey respondents who scored highest in gratitude slept longer than less ap-

preciative participants. The quality of their sleep was also better. Take a few minutes each day to mentally savor the things, large or small, that you're thankful for. □

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The Pros And Cons Of College Financial Aid

PAUL SULLIVAN

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The decision by Grinnell College to continue – for now – to admit students regardless of their ability to pay raises a question that more and more parents are asking: How much does your financial situation matter in getting your children into college?

Parents have long used their wealth to try to sway admissions officers, of course. But that doesn't always work. And it isn't necessarily true that a needier student is passed up.

"The misperception is schools first look at all the kids who can pay full freight and then look at the kids who are left over," said Kalman A. Chany, a financial aid consultant in New York and author of "Paying for College Without Going Broke." "Parents like to use this as an excuse. They'll say that if my kid didn't have to apply for aid, he'd get in. It's overblown. It's a rationalization."

Still, the vote by the board of trustees at Grinnell, a liberal arts college in Iowa, reflects a broader trend in financial aid. The college counselors I spoke to this week said the majority of colleges had already downgraded their policies to "need aware" – meaning that the colleges accept most of their students without looking at their need for aid but will consider financial need for some percentage of the applicants. Others are already considering a parent's ability to pay in many of their admissions decisions.

These counselors also

said that parents and, by extension, their children should start thinking strategically about what financial aid they might receive. This includes being realistic about how desirable their children are to top colleges since they may receive

100 percent of the need," said Jon W. Tarrant, a certified educational planner in Carlisle, Pa. "Most colleges can't afford to be need-blind."

There is an argument, too, that need-blind admissions policies have not created

need-blind does is compare those students to every other kid who didn't get that."

Still, any talk about changing the way parents' financial situations are factored into their children's admissions prospects plays into

worries about ever-increasing college tuition bills. A study last year by The Princeton Review found that most students and their parents said financial aid was either extremely or very necessary for them to go to college.

"It will be obvious because they didn't file a financial aid form," Belinda Stern, an education consultant on Mercer Island, Wash., said. "Some people are a little more brazen and want to make it clear to the college that they are willing to pay the full ride and come right out and say it."

A student she counseled was admitted to a prestigious college and its business program because his father owned a sports team. But Chany, the financial aid consultant in New York, said he knew of families who had donated seven figures and their child still did not get in.



Belinda Stern, an education consultant, in her office on Mercer Island, Wash. Stern said that admissions officials can usually figure out fairly quickly who needs aid and who doesn't.

(Stuart Isett/The New York Times)

more aid from a less prestigious college.

Grinnell is among a select group of colleges to be both need-blind in admissions and able to meet 100 percent of that need for admitted students. But it is typical of most colleges that reported a drop in their endowments in 2008. Grinnell's endowment is now \$1.5 billion, down from \$1.7 billion in 2008, and, the college has pointed out, it relies on the endowment for 50 percent of its operating budget.

"Grinnell is pretty unusual to be need-blind and to meet

greater socioeconomic diversity on campuses.

"One of the ways colleges are need-blind is they are quite literally blind to the neediest students and the conditions they're coming from," said Shamus Khan, an associate professor of sociology at Columbia University and the author of "Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School."

"Think about parents who invest \$50,000 a year or more in their kids," Khan said. "You could be looking at \$1 million in investments in a kid over 18 years. What

Continued on page 27

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Bernanke reiterates stance on Fed's rate policies

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Ben Bernanke is standing by the Federal Reserve's low-interest-rate policies, cautioning that any move to raise rates prematurely could derail a still-modest economic recovery. Bernanke also sought to calm fears that super-low rates risk igniting inflation or rattling investors, during a speech this weekend in San Francisco to an economic conference sponsored by the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank. The central bank's low-rate policies are intended to encourage borrowing and spending to boost the economy. Higher rates would make borrowing more expensive. Bernanke said the Fed's policies mirror what other central banks around the world are doing.

"Long-term interest rates in the major industrial countries are low for a good reason: Inflation is low and stable and, given expect-

tations of weak growth, expected real short rates are low," he said. "Premature rate increases would carry a high risk of short-circuiting the recovery, possibly leading — ironically enough — to an even longer period of low long-term rates," he said.

have expressed concerns that the Fed may be raising the risk of inflation through its purchases of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

As he did in his appearance before House and Senate committees this week, Bernanke sought to

He said 2010 financial regulatory overhaul has forced banks to boost the required capital on hand to cushion against losses. The Fed also conducts annual stress tests to make sure that the nation's largest financial institutions have sufficient resources to survive adverse economic conditions, he said.

"We pay special attention to developments at the largest, most complex financial firms, making use of information gathered in our supervision of the institutions," Bernanke said.

During a question period after his speech, Bernanke was asked what he believed were the most significant lessons learned from the financial crisis. Prior to serving as Fed chairman, Bernanke had been a college professor at Princeton who researched mistakes made by the Federal Reserve during the Great Depression. Bernanke said there was a need for better oversight of the financial system. □



Senate Banking Committee Chairman, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., left, shakes hands with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

His comments amplified testimony he gave to Congress this week.

Critics, including some Fed regional bank presidents,

provide reassurance that the central bank is closely monitoring developments in financial markets to guard against such risks.

Casino corp. admits likely violation of bribery law

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

© 2013 New York Times

Las Vegas Sands Corp., an international gambling empire controlled by billionaire Sheldon G. Adelson, has informed the Securities and Exchange Commission that it likely violated a federal law against bribing foreign officials.

In its annual regulatory report published by the commission, Sands reported that its audit committee and independent accountants had determined that "there were likely violations of the books and records and internal controls provisions" of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The disclosure comes amid an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as the Department of Justice and the FBI into the company's business activities in China. It is the company's first public acknowledgment of possible wrongdoing. Ron Reese, a spokesman for Sands, declined to comment further.

In its filing, Sands said it did not believe the findings would have material impact on its financial statements, or that they warranted revisions in its past statements. The company said it was too early to determine whether the investigation would result in any losses. "The company is cooperating with all investigations," the statement said.

Sands' activities in China came under the scrutiny of federal investigators after 2010 when Steven C. Jacobs, former president of the company's operations in Macau, filed a wrongful-termination lawsuit in which he charged that he had been pressured to exercise improper leverage against government officials. He also accused the company of turning a blind eye toward Chinese organized crime figures operating in its casinos. □

Buffett firm's 4Q up 49% on paper gains

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — Warren Buffett's company reported a 49 percent surge in fourth-quarter profit because of a big paper gain on its investments and derivative contracts, but the investor called the year "subpar" as Berkshire's results lagged the S&P 500. Buffett recounted the fourth quarter and Berkshire Hathaway's 2012 performance late last week in his annual letter to shareholders.

The Omaha-based company reported \$4.55 billion net income, or \$2,757 per Class A share, in the fourth quarter on \$44.72 billion revenue. That's up from \$3.05 billion net income, or \$1,846 per share, on \$37.96 billion revenue the year before.

Jeff Matthews, who wrote "Warren Buffett's Successor: Who It Is and Why It Matters," said there were few surprises in Buffett's annual report because the

company is doing well.

"I thought it was pretty boring, and that's good news," Matthews said.

The paper value of Berkshire's investments and derivatives soared to \$1.7

and the derivatives don't mature until about eight years from now.

Buffett says Berkshire's operating earnings, which exclude the value of derivatives and investments, are

underwriting loss \$19 million in the fourth quarter versus the previous year's \$107 million underwriting loss. Buffett praised Berkshire's insurance managers at Geico, General Reinsurance and other companies for increasing the amount of money Berkshire gets to invest in exchange for writing insurance to \$73 billion.

"Our insurance operations shot the lights out last year," Buffett said.

Altogether Berkshire's five most-profitable non-insurance businesses contributed \$10.1 billion of pre-tax earnings.

Berkshire owns roughly 80 subsidiaries, including railroad, clothing, furniture and jewelry firms. Its insurance and utility businesses typically account for more than half of the company's net income. The Omaha, Neb., company also has major investments in such companies as Coca-Cola Co., IBM and Wells Fargo & Co. □



Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., at the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

billion in the fourth quarter, up from \$382 million the year before. Buffett has said Berkshire's investment and derivative gains or losses can be misleading because the company rarely sells its investments,

a better measure of performance. They improved 5.5 percent to \$2.8 billion in the quarter.

The biggest improvement in Berkshire's operating businesses came in its insurance unit, which posted an

The risky business behind the minimum wage

CHRISTINA D. ROMER

© 2013 New York Times

Raising the minimum wage, as President Barack Obama proposed in his State of the Union address, tends to be more popular with the general public than with economists.

I don't believe that's because economists care less about the plight of the poor — many economists are perfectly nice people who care deeply about poverty and income inequality. Rather, economic analysis raises questions about whether a higher minimum wage will achieve better outcomes for the economy and reduce poverty.

First, what's the argument for having a minimum wage at all? Many of my students assume that government protection is the only thing ensuring decent wages for most American workers. But basic economics shows that competition between employers for workers can be very effective at preventing businesses from misbehaving. If every other store in town is paying workers \$9 an hour, one offering \$8 will find it hard to hire anyone — perhaps not when unemployment is high, but certainly in normal times. Robust competition is a powerful force helping to ensure that workers are paid what they contribute to their employers' bottom lines.

One argument for a mini-

mum wage is that there sometimes isn't enough competition among employers. In our nation's history, there have been company towns where one employer truly dominated the local economy. As a result, that employer could affect the going wage for the entire area. In such a situation, a minimum wage can not only make workers better off but can also lead to more efficient levels of production and employment. But I suspect that few people, including economists, find this argument compelling today. Company towns are largely a thing of the past in this country; even Wal-Mart Stores, the nation's largest employer, faces substantial competition for workers in most places. Instead, most arguments for instituting or raising a minimum wage are based on fairness and redistribution. Even if workers are getting a competitive wage, many of us are deeply disturbed that some hard-working families still have very little. Though a desire to help the poor is largely a moral issue, economics can help us think about how successful a higher minimum wage would be at reducing poverty.

An important issue is who benefits. When the minimum wage rises, is income redistributed primarily to poor families, or do many

families higher up the income ladder benefit as well?

It is true, as conservative commentators often point out, that some minimum-wage workers are middle-class teenagers or second-

working, this tax credit also tends to increase the supply of labor. And that puts downward pressure on wages. As a result, some of the benefits go to businesses, as would be the case with any wage subsi-

come than more affluent people. So if an increase in the minimum wage successfully redistributed some income to the poor, it could increase overall consumer spending — which could stimulate employment and output growth.

All of this is true, but the effects would probably be small. The president's proposal would raise annual income by \$3,500 for a full-time minimum-wage worker. A recent analysis found that 13 million workers earn less than \$9 an hour. If they were all working full time at the current minimum — and a majority are not — the income increase from the higher minimum wage would be only about \$50 billion.

Even assuming that all of that higher income was redistributed from the wealthiest families, the difference in spending behavior between low-income and high-income consumers is likely to translate into only about an additional \$10 billion to \$20 billion in consumer purchases. That's not much in a \$15 trillion economy.

So where does all of this leave us? The economics of the minimum wage are complicated, and it's far from obvious what an increase would accomplish. If a higher minimum wage were the only anti-poverty initiative available, I would support it. □



Raising the minimum wage, as President Barack Obama proposed in his 2013 State of the Union address, tends to be more popular with the general public than with economists.

(Mark Allen Miller/The New York Times)

ary earners in fairly well-off households. But the available data suggest that roughly half the workers likely to be affected by the \$9-an-hour level proposed by the president are in families earning less than \$40,000 a year. So while raising the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 an hour may not be particularly well targeted as an anti-poverty proposal, it's not badly targeted, either. By raising the reward for

dy. Though this mutes some of the direct redistributive value of the program — particularly if there's no constraining minimum wage — it also tends to increase employment. And a job may ultimately be the most valuable thing for a family struggling to escape poverty. What about the macroeconomic argument that is sometimes made for raising the minimum wage? Poorer people typically spend a larger fraction of their in-

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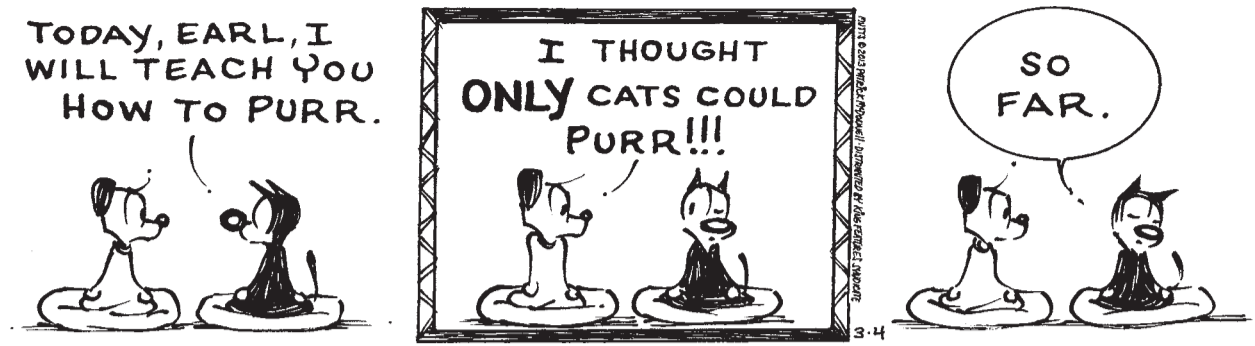
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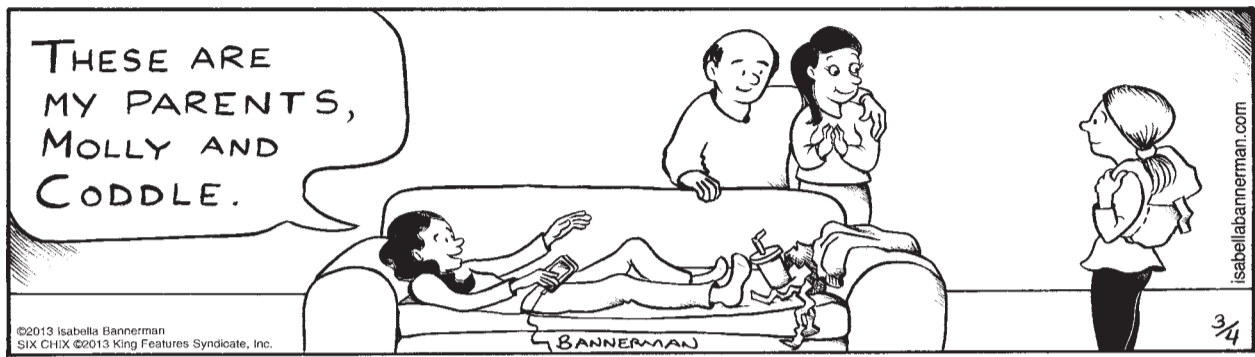


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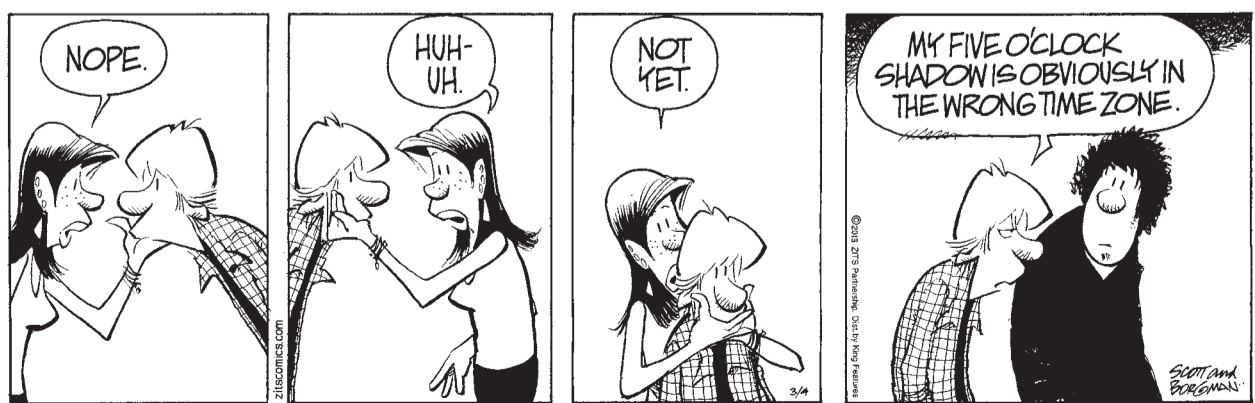
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8	2					5		4
			6				2	3
		8		9	1			
7								5
			8	3		9		
3	8				5			
4		6					8	1
	9	7		2			5	

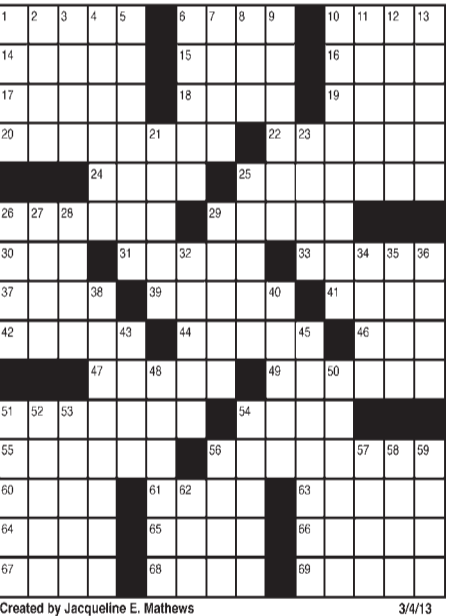
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	5	3	9	7	2	8	1	4
9	4	7	6	8	1	2	3	5
1	2	8	5	4	3	9	7	6
7	9	2	4	1	5	6	8	3
4	3	6	2	9	8	7	5	1
8	1	5	3	6	7	4	2	9
2	6	1	8	5	9	3	4	7
3	7	4	1	2	6	5	9	8
5	8	9	7	3	4	1	6	2

- ACROSS
- 1 Suez or Erie
 - 6 in; wearing
 - 10 In this place
 - 14 Maui greeting
 - 15 Nurse's assistant
 - 16 Quiz
 - 17 Tijuana dollars
 - 18 Midday
 - 19 S, M, L or XL
 - 20 Elbow grease
 - 22 Clothier
 - 24 with; support
 - 25 Proficiency
 - 26 Tranquil
 - 29 Mea ___; guilty one's phrase
 - 30 "Maria"
 - 31 Strong winds
 - 33 Obstacles
 - 37 Toward the ___; astern
 - 39 Allowed by law
 - 41 Threesome
 - 42 Colorado resort
 - 44 More pleasant
 - 46 Ailing
 - 47 Dromedary
 - 49 "Hark! The Angels Sing"
 - 51 Eight-armed sea creature
 - 54 Give up, as land
 - 55 Chauffeur
 - 56 Det. Holmes of fiction
 - 60 Knighted lady
 - 61 Huge continent
 - 63 Bird of prey
 - 64 At any time
 - 65 Four-___ clover
 - 66 Go off track
 - 67 Ruby & scarlet
 - 68 Identical
 - 69 Appears



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/4/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

7	DETROIT	FOOTBALL	PLAYER
8	HUBBUB		
9	HYGIENIST;	TEETH	CLEANER
10	FALTERING;	UNCERTAIN	
11	BANISHMENT		
12	GILLETTE	PRODUCT	
13	BOARD;	NAILED	IMPLEMENT
21	JUST	RIGHT	
23	BITING	VIPERS	
25	ROCK 'N' ROLL	OR	JAZZ
26	LEE;	FROZEN	DESSERT
27	12/24 & 12/31		
28	GATHER	CROPS	
29	B. DEMILLE		
32	READ	BETWEEN	THE
34	OPERA	SOLO	
35	FISH'S	BREATHING	ORGAN
36	AUCTIONEER'S	SHOUT	
38	GETS	WELL	
40	GIGGLE		
43	BACK	OF THE	NECK
45	MAKE	UP FOR,	AS A WRONG
48	WALL	PAINTINGS	
50	TO;	FEEL A	KINSHIP
51	MORE	BIZARRE	
52	DESIRE	GREATLY	
53	TWO-___;	BETRAYED	
54	MAKE	RAW BY	RUBBING
56	THAILAND,	ONCE	
57	MEANIE		
58	CHOWDER		
59	DOOR	OPENERS	
62	BODY	OF WATER	

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College Financial Aid

Continued from page 23

"At some schools, there are development cases," he said, using the industry term for likely donor. "But they compete against their own subcategory of students the way athletes compete against athletes."

That is not to say the ability to pay does not work to students' advantage. Tarrant said many colleges were trying to attract international students for budgetary reasons.

"They get both international diversity and full pay," he said.

Out-of-state students applying to state universities are in a similar situation because their tuition will be much higher than that of residents, Stern said. And the universities may use merit aid to attract them, knowing that even if these students get aid of \$5,000 or more, they will still be paying more than their in-state counterparts.

Where the advantage of wealth may seem unfair is for students who are marginal for a particular college and need a lot of financial aid.

They might not be admitted over a similarly marginal student whose parents can pay.

This feeds into why some parents who could qualify for some aid think they will give their children a leg up

by not ticking the box that says they want to be considered for it. One counselor who asked not to be named said she sometimes asked parents if they could afford to pay for the first year and apply for aid after that.

But this kind of strategy ultimately creates an untenable situation. What if they don't get aid the next year? Do they take on huge amounts of debt? Does the student transfer? "You have to think long and hard about how long you can pay full freight," said Susan Beacham, chief executive of Money Savvy Generation, a consultant, who lives in Illinois.

Beacham said she and her husband told their two daughters that they would not pay more than \$40,000 a year for college for them. One is at Miami University of Ohio, which costs just under \$40,000 for out-of-state students.

The other had wanted to go to New York University – at nearly \$60,000 – but went to the University of South Carolina instead, where the price tag is also about \$40,000. Next year, she is transferring to the University of Illinois, where she will get in-state tuition.

"It is such an emotional issue," Beacham said. "It's your child's happiness. But your child's happiness cannot be bought."

But many parents still want to be able to send their children to the best college they get into. □

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Scientists say baby born with HIV apparently cured

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A baby born with the AIDS virus appears to have been cured, scientists announced Sunday, describing the case of a child from Mississippi who's now 2½ years old and has been off medication for about a year with no signs of infection.

There's no guarantee the child will remain healthy, although sophisticated testing uncovered just traces of the virus' genetic material still lingering. If so, it would mark only the world's second reported cure.

Specialists say Sunday's

many babies are born with the virus.

"You could call this about as close to a cure, if not a cure, that we've seen," Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, who is familiar with the findings, told The Associated Press.

A doctor gave this baby faster and stronger treatment than is usual, starting a three-drug infusion within 30 hours of birth. That was before tests confirmed the infant was infected and not just at risk from a mother whose HIV wasn't diagnosed until she was in labor.

"I just felt like this baby was at higher-than-normal risk,

by's blood before it could form hideouts in the body. Those so-called reservoirs of dormant cells usually rapidly reinfect anyone who stops medication, said Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She led the investigation that deemed the child "functionally cured," meaning in long-term remission even if all traces of the virus haven't been completely eradicated.

"We can't promise to cure babies who are infected. We can promise to prevent the vast majority of transmissions if the moms are tested during every pregnancy," Gay stressed.

The only other person considered cured of the AIDS virus underwent a very different and risky kind of treatment — a bone marrow transplant from a special donor, one of the rare people who is naturally re-

In the Mississippi case, the mother had had no prenatal care when she came to a rural emergency room in advanced labor. A rapid test detected HIV. In such cases, doctors typically give the newborn low-dose medication in hopes of preventing HIV from taking root. But the small hospital didn't have the proper liquid kind, and sent the infant to Gay's medical center. She gave the



This image released by the University of Mississippi Medical Center shows Dr. Hannah Gay, a pediatric HIV specialist at the University of Mississippi, Friday, March 1, 2013.

Associated Press

announcement, at a major AIDS meeting in Atlanta, offers promising clues for efforts to eliminate HIV infection in children, especially in AIDS-plagued African countries where too

and deserved our best shot," Dr. Hannah Gay, a pediatric HIV specialist at the University of Mississippi, said in an interview.

That fast action apparently knocked out HIV in the ba-



This image provided by Johns Hopkins Medicine shows Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins' Children's Center in Baltimore

Next, Persaud's team is planning a study to try to prove that, with more aggressive treatment of other high-risk babies. "Maybe we'll be able to block this reservoir seeding," Persaud said. No one should stop anti-AIDS drugs as a result of this case, Fauci cautioned. But "it opens up a lot of doors" to research if other children can be helped, he said. "It makes perfect sense what happened." Better than treatment is to prevent babies from being born with HIV in the first place. About 300,000 children were born with HIV in 2011, mostly in poor countries where only about 60 percent of infected pregnant women get treatment that can keep them from passing the virus to their babies. In the U.S., such births are very rare because HIV testing and treatment long have been part of prenatal care.

stant to HIV. Timothy Ray Brown of San Francisco has not needed HIV medications in the five years since that transplant.

The Mississippi case shows "there may be different cures for different populations of HIV-infected people," said Dr. Rowena Johnston of amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research. That group funded Persaud's team to explore possible cases of pediatric cures. It also suggests that scientists should look back at other children who've been treated since shortly after birth, including some reports of possible cures in the late 1990s that were dismissed at the time, said Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, who also has seen the findings.

"This will likely inspire the field, make people more optimistic that this is possible," he said.

baby higher treatment-level doses.

The child responded well through age 18 months, when the family temporarily quit returning and stopped treatment, researchers said. When they returned several months later, remarkably, Gay's standard tests detected no virus in the child's blood.

Ten months after treatment stopped, a battery of super-sensitive tests at half a dozen laboratories found no sign of the virus' return. There were only some remnants of genetic material that don't appear able to replicate, Persaud said.

In Mississippi, Gay gives the child a check-up every few months: "I just check for the virus and keep praying that it stays gone."

The mother's HIV is being controlled with medication and she is "quite excited for her child," Gay added. □

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'Giant Slayer' scares up ho-hum \$28 million debut

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It wasn't exactly a mighty victory, but "Jack the Giant Slayer" won the weekend at the box office.

The Warner Bros. 3-D action extravaganza, based on the Jack and the Beanstalk legend, made just \$28 million to debut at No. 1, according to Sunday studio estimates. It had a reported budget of just under \$200 million.

But the studio also hit a milestone on the global front with Peter Jackson's fantasy epic "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" crossing the \$1 billion mark worldwide. The first of three films based on the classic J.R.R. Tolkien novel has made \$301.1 domestically and \$700 million internationally.

"Jack the Giant Slayer" comes from Bryan Singer, director of "The Usual Suspects" and the first two "X-Men" movies. It stars Nicholas Hoult, Ewan McGregor, Ian McShane and Stanley Tucci.

Among other new releases, the college romp "21 & Over" from Relativity Media made only \$9 million this weekend to open in third place. And the horror sequel "The Last Exorcism Part II" from CBS Films debuted in fourth place with just over \$8 million.



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Nicholas Hoult in a scene from "Jack the Giant Slayer."

Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' executive vice president of theatrical distribution, said "Jack the Giant Slayer" opened lower than the studio had hoped, but he's encouraged by its CinemaScore, which was a B-plus overall and an A among viewers under 18. One bit of good news for "Jack" is that it had a 56-percent uptick from Friday to Saturday, suggesting strong word-of-mouth and more family audiences for the PG-13 adventure. "That tells us that the audiences that are seeing it really do like it," Goldstein said. "The international opening in Asia has been very strong — the 3-D component of the special effects works in a big way outside the domestic marketplace."

"Jack the Giant Slayer"

made \$13.7 million in 11 international territories for a worldwide total of \$41.7 million. Internationally, "A Good Day to Die Hard," the fifth film in the blockbuster Bruce Willis franchise, was the big winner of the weekend with \$18.3 million for a global total of nearly \$222 million.

Domestically, this is the sixth weekend in a row that movie ticket sales are down, said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. He pointed out that many of the action pictures aimed at men this year — including "Snitch,"

"The Last Stand," "Bullet to the Head" and "Parker" — have been disappointments at the box office.

"Other films have done OK but we need to do better than OK to keep up with last year's pace," he said. "Where is the audience? I don't want to overstate this, but where are the guys?"

Among the few bright spots, the Jason Bateman-Melissa McCarthy comedy "Identity Thief" has become the first film to cross the \$100 million mark this year. Now in its fourth week in theaters, the Universal

movie has made \$107.4 million.

"This is a tough marketplace right now. Everything is underperforming," Dergarabedian said. "There hasn't been a huge breakout hit yet. For every 'Identity Thief' there have probably been 10 other films that have underperformed."

Meanwhile, winners at last weekend's Academy Awards, including "Argo," "Silver Linings Playbook" and "Life of Pi," are still sticking around in the top 20 after several months in theaters, further underscoring the weakness of recent new releases.

But Dergarabedian was optimistic that things will turn around with the opening next week of Disney's "Oz the Great and Powerful," a much-anticipated prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" starring James Franco and directed by Sam Raimi. It's expected to open in the \$75-100 million range.

"We need the cavalry to arrive and we need them soon," he said. "Maybe James Franco is the cavalry."

2nd Jonah Lehrer book being pulled from shelves

NEW YORK (AP) — A second Jonah Lehrer book is being pulled.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Friday that Lehrer's "How We Decide," originally published in 2009, is being taken "off sale." Spokeswoman Lori Glazer said the decision followed an internal review, but she didn't elaborate.

Lehrer's best-selling "Imagine" was withdrawn last year after Tablet Magazine reported that Lehrer had manipulated and fabricated Bob Dylan quotes. At the same time, he resigned as a staff writer for The New Yorker.

Glazer said Friday that the publisher will continue to sell a third Lehrer book, "Proust Was a Neuroscientist," which was released in 2007.

The 31-year-old Lehrer had been a popular author and speaker, specializing in books and essays about how the mind works. But he also has been criticized for sloppy scholarship and faulty reasoning, and he admitted recycling his own journalism for separate publications.

NEW YORK (AP) — Gay advocacy group GLAAD says Madonna will present CNN's Anderson Cooper with an award for openly gay media professionals. GLAAD told The Associated Press on Saturday that the singer has been chosen to give Cooper the Vito Russo Award at the 24th annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City on March 16.

GLAAD President Herndon Graddick says Madonna and Cooper are longtime friends who have both used their careers to support lesbian, gay and transgender people.

Cooper declined to speak publicly about his sexuality for years. But last July he gave blogger Andrew Sullivan permission to pub-



This June 23, 2012 file photo shows CNN's Anderson Cooper arrives at the 39th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

lish an email in which Cooper said he was gay and "couldn't be more happy." Russo helped found GLAAD

and wrote a book about gay people in the movies called "The Celluloid Closet."

Comings and goings at 'Downton Abbey' next season

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shirley MacLaine will be returning to "Downton Abbey" next season, and opera star Kiri Te Kanawa is joining the cast.

MacLaine will reprise her role as Martha Levinson, Lord Robert Crawley's free-wheeling American mother-in-law, Carnival Films and "Masterpiece" on PBS said Saturday. MacLaine appeared in episodes early last season.

New Zealand-born soprano Te Kanawa will play a house guest. She will sing during her visit.

Other new cast members and characters include:

— Tom Cullen as Lord Gillingham, described as an old family friend of the Crawleys who visits the family as a guest for a house party (and who might be the one to mend Lady Mary Crawley's broken heart).

— Nigel Harman will play a valet named Green.

— Harriet Walter plays Lady Shackleton, an old friend of the Dowager Countess.

— Joanna David will play



This undated publicity photo provided by PBS shows Shirley MacLaine as Martha Levinson from the TV series, "Downton Abbey."

Associated Press

a guest role as the Duchess of Yeovil.

— Julian Ovenden is cast as aristocrat Charles Blake. "The addition of these characters can only mean more delicious drama, which is what 'Downton Abbey' is all about," said "Masterpiece" executive producer Rebecca Eaton.

Meanwhile, the producers have confirmed that villainous housemaid Sarah O'Brien won't be back. Siobhan Finneran, who played her, is leaving the show.

These announcements come shortly after the third season's airing in the United States. It concluded with

the heartbreaking death of popular Matthew Crawley in a car crash, leaving behind his newborn child and loving wife, Lady Mary Crawley.

Matthew's untimely demise was the result of the departure from the series by actor Dan Stevens, who had starred in that role.

The third season also saw the shocking death of Lady Sybil Branson, who died during childbirth. She was played by the departing Jessica Brown Findlay. Last season the wildly popular melodrama, set in early 20th century Britain, was the most-watched series on PBS since Ken Burns' epic "The Civil War," which first aired in 1990. The Nielsen Co. said 8.2 million viewers saw the "Downton" season conclusion.

"Downton Abbey," which airs on the "Masterpiece" anthology, won three Emmy awards last fall, including a best supporting actress trophy for Maggie Smith (the Dowager Countess), who also won a Golden Globe in January. In all, the series has won nine Emmys, two Golden Globes and a Screen Actors Guild Award for the ensemble cast, which is the first time the cast of a British television show has won this award.

Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Elizabeth McGovern, Jim Carter and Brendan Coyle are among its other returning stars.

Rogers, founder of Motown group The Miracles, dies

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan (AP)

— Bobby Rogers, a founding member of Motown group The Miracles and a songwriting collaborator with Smokey Robinson, died Sunday at his suburban Detroit home. He was 73.

Motown Museum board member Allen Rawls said Rogers died about 6 a.m. Rogers had been ill for several years.

Rogers formed the group in 1956 with cousin Claudette Rogers, Pete Moore, Ronnie White and Robinson. Their hits included "Shop Around," "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "The Tracks of My Tears," "Going to a Go-Go," "I Second That Emotion" and "The Tears of a Clown."

"Another soldier in my life has fallen. Bobby Rogers was my brother and a really good friend," Robinson said Sunday in a statement.

"He and I were born on the exact same day in the same hospital in Detroit. I am really going to miss him. I loved him very much."

Roger's cousin Claudette told the Detroit Free Press that everyone was drawn to his personality.

"People always commented on the tall one with the glasses," she said. "He was personable, approachable and he loved talking to the women, loved talking to the guys, loved to dance, loved to sing, loved to perform. That was the joy of his life."

His voice can be heard on Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," with Rogers saying, "It's just a groovy party, man, I can dig it." Mary Wilson of the Supremes said that captured his essence.

"If people want to remember him, they should put that record on and listen to Bobby," Wilson told the



In this March 20, 2009 file photo, members of the Motown group The Miracles, from left: William "Smokey" Robinson, Warren "Pete" Moore, Claudette Robinson, and Robert "Bobby" Rogers, are honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

newspaper. "That's who he was." Rogers and The Miracles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. He was too ill to attend the ceremony.

He shared songwriting credits with Robinson on The Temptations' "The Way You Do the Things You Do," The Contours' "First I Look at the Purse" and The Mir-

acles' "Going to a Go-Go." Funeral arrangements through James H. Cole Home for Funerals in Detroit were incomplete Sunday afternoon.

Poison Politics



CHARLES M. BLOW
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The deadline has passed. The sequester is in effect. And Congress is not in session.

We now know that our political system is broken beyond anything even remotely resembling a functional government.

The ridiculous bill was designed as a poison pill, but Republicans popped it like a Pez. Now the body politic — weak with battle fatigue, jerked from crisis to crisis and struggling to recover from a recession — has to wait to see how severe the damage will be. (The director of the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the sequester could cost 750,000 jobs in 2013 alone.)

This is all because Republicans have refused to even consider new revenue as part of a deal. That includes revenue from closing tax loopholes, a move they supposedly support.

As Speaker John Boehner said after his congressional leaders met with President Barack Obama on Friday:

“Let’s make it clear that the president got his tax hikes on Jan. 1. This discussion about revenue, in my view, is over.”

Boehner’s intransigence during the talks drew “cheers,” according to a report in The New York Times, from his chronically intransigent colleagues. But their position is a twist of the truth that is coming dangerously close to becoming accepted wisdom by sheer volume of repetition. It must be battled back every time it is uttered.

Let’s make this clear: it is wrong to characterize the American Taxpayer Relief Act as a “tax hike.” In reality, all it did was allow 18 percent of the Bush tax cuts — mostly those affecting the wealthiest Americans — to expire while permanently locking in a whopping 82 percent of them.

But of course, that misrepresentation fit with the tired trope of Democrats as tax-and-spend liberals. It also completely ignores that it was Bush-era spending that dug the ditch we’re in.

Republicans have defined their position, regardless of how reckless: austerity or bust. However, as economists have warned, austerity generally precedes — and, in fact, can cause — bust.

Just look at Europe.

But Republicans are so dizzy over the deficits and delighted to lick the boots of billionaires that they cannot — or will not — see it. They are still trying to sell cut-to-grow snake oil: cut spending and cut taxes, and the economy will grow because rich people will be happy, and when rich people are happy they hire poor people, and then everyone’s happy.

This is the vacuum of talk of politicians trying to placate people with vacation homes, not a sensible solution for people trying to purchase, or simply retain, their first homes.

Now the president is trying to make the best of a bad situation and bring expectations in line with what is likely to happen.

When Gallup this week asked Americans to use one word to describe the sequester, negative words outnumbered good words four to one. The top three negative words or phrases were “bad,” “disaster” and “God help us.”

At a news conference after Friday’s meeting with congressional leaders, the president tried to tamp down some of the most dire predictions about the sequester’s impact. He said:

“What’s important to understand is that not everyone will feel the pain of these cuts right away. The pain, though, will be real.”

The president knows well that if the sequester’s effects are so diffused that the public — whose attention span is as narrow as a cat’s hair — doesn’t connect them to their source, people might think the administration cried wolf.

That’s why he said, and will most likely continue to say for months, “So every time that we get a piece of economic news over the next month, next two months, next six months, as long as the sequester’s in place we’ll know that that economic news could have been better if Congress had not failed to act.”

He must yoke this pain to the people who invited it. It’s not as though most Americans don’t already think poorly of Republicans anyway.

A Pew Research Center report released this week found that most Americans think the Republican Party, unlike the Democratic Party, is out of touch with the American people and too extreme. And most Americans did not see Republicans as open to change or looking out for the country’s future as much as Democrats.

The president said Friday that “there is a caucus of common sense up on Capitol Hill” that includes congressional Republicans who “privately at least” were willing to close loopholes to prevent the sequester.

Those privately reasonable Republicans might want to be more public before their party goes over another cliff and takes the country with them. □



The Ratzinger Legacy



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2013 New York Times

The helicopter that carried Pope Benedict XVI into retirement left behind a Catholicism in crisis. So say his critics, his admirers and everyone in between.

The church needs “shock therapy” from its next pontiff, writes one observer. Catholicism faces its worst crisis “since the French Revolution,” argues another. “Not since the Reformation,” writes a third, “has the Church been so shaken to its core.”

Up to a point, the language of crisis is justified. To the trends weakening institutional faiths across the Western world — the rise of spiritual individualism, the influence of the so-called new atheism, the gap between traditional Christian sexual ethics and present-day realities — the Roman Catholic Church has added scandals, sclerosis and a communications strategy apparently designed to win the news cycles of 1848. In both Europe and America, Catholicism’s public reputation has worsened since Benedict assumed the papacy, and his nearly unprecedented abdication is a sign that the pope emeritus knows it.

But in assessing Benedict’s legacy, it’s worth looking back on the situation in the church in the late 1970s, when the man who was then Joseph Ratzinger left his academic career to become first an archbishop, then a cardinal and eventually the pope.

In America, the ‘70s were defined by not just a weakening in the institutional life of the church but a wholesale collapse. Thou-

sands of priests and nuns left their holy orders each year. Mass attendance had fallen by a third in a generation. The church faced a rebellion from Latin Mass traditionalists, even as progressive theologians confidently planned for a third Vatican Council. Along with institutional instability there was moral laxity, and worse: revelations of sex abuse and cover-up were years away, but the rate of abuse was at its peak.

Beneath these trends was a pervasive sense that Catholic identity was entirely up for grabs — that having dispensed with Latin Mass and meatless Fridays, the church might be poised for further revolutions, a major schism, or both. When Walker Percy’s novel “Love in the Ruins” imagined Catholicism in the United States splitting in three — a progressive church modeled on liberal Protestantism, a right-wing “American Catholic Church” that plays the “Star-Spangled Banner” during Mass and a tiny remnant loyal to Rome — it seemed more like prophecy than fiction.

It was the work of Ratzinger’s subsequent career, first as John Paul II’s doctrinal policeman and then as his successor, to re-establish where Catholicism actually stood. This was mostly a project of reassertion: Yes, the church still believes in the Resurrection, the Trinity and the Virgin birth. Yes, the church still opposes abortion, divorce, sex outside of marriage. Yes, the church still considers itself the one true faith. And yes — this above all, for a man whose chief gifts were intellectual — the church believes that its doctrines are compatible with reason, scholarship and science.

It was understandable that this project made Ratzinger many enemies. It turned him into a traitor to his class, since it involved disciplining theologians who had been colleagues, peers and rivals. It disappointed or wounded the many Catholics who couldn’t reconcile the church’s teachings with their post-sexual-revolution lives. And it obviously did not

solve the broad cultural challenges facing institutional Christianity in the West.

But it did stabilize Catholicism, especially in America, to an extent that was far from inevitable 40 years ago. The church’s civil wars continued, but without producing major schisms. Mass attendance stopped its plunge and gradually leveled off, holding up even during some of the worst sex abuse revelations. Vocations likewise stabilized, and both ordinations and interest in religious life have actually risen modestly over the last decade. Today’s American Catholics, while deeply divided, are more favorably disposed to both the pope emeritus and the current direction of the church than press coverage sometimes suggests.

This stabilization was not the kind of sweeping revival that some conservative Catholics claimed to see happening, and it did nothing to prevent the church’s reputation from suffering, deservedly, once the abuse epidemic came to light.

But for all of Catholicism’s problems, the Christian denominations that did not have a Ratzinger — those churches that persisted in the spirit of the 1970s and didn’t reassert a doctrinal core — have generally fared worse. There are millions of lapsed Catholics, but the church still has a higher retention rate by far than most mainline Protestant denominations. Indeed, it is difficult to pick out a major religious body where the progressive course urged by so many of Ratzinger’s critics has increased vitality and growth.

This doesn’t mean there isn’t some further version of reform, some unexpected synthesis of tradition and innovation, that would serve Catholicism well. And if such a path exists, Benedict was probably not the leader to find it.

But he helped ensure that something recognizable as Catholic Christianity would survive into the third millennium. For one man, one lifetime, that was enough. □

Louis Vuitton inaugurates "Winter Resort" store in Gstaad



ORANJESTAD/GSTAAD- Recently Louis Vuitton worldwide welcomed a new store to the Louis Vuitton family with the establishment of a new boutique in Gstaad, Switzerland. The Aruba boutique, located at Renaissance Mall is proud to announce the establishment of this new addition to their family of high-end boutiques. Following the opening of its first store in the famous Swiss ski resort in 2004, Louis Vuitton reinforces its ties with Gstaad by inaugurating a

new "winter resort" store on the renowned Promenade. The opening was a tribute to one of Europe's best-known winter (and summer) destinations, which celebrated its 700th anniversary in 2012. Following this new architectural concept, the trunk-maker invites its clients on a journey of discovery, filled with new emotions and experiences in a setting surrounded by authenticity and tradition. In reference to the resort's heritage, Louis Vuitton showcases its styl-

ish and elegant collections in the warm ambience of a winter ski chalet. Built on a single level, the store is a special example of Alpine design, featuring unique and luxurious furniture. At its heart, a marble, stone and wood fireplace creates a welcoming atmosphere. The unique heritage and know-how of the Maison are reinforced throughout the new "winter resort" store, with a decor that blends tradition and modernity in a unique Louis Vuitton style. Clients

are able to discover the new collections of leather goods, accessories and travel items, complemented by seasonal capsule collections of men's and women's ready-to-wear and shoes.

At the store entrance, they are greeted by the women's collections, featuring city bags in refined leather for daytime as well as evening. Iconic handbags, such as the Keepall, the Speedy and the Neverfull, available in the world-renowned Monogram and the Damier prints. Scarves, belts and costume jewelry are displayed to allow women to perfect and finish their overall look. Further into the store, the women's shoe collections

pay tribute to the creativity and talent of Marc Jacobs, Artistic Director of Louis Vuitton. The men's department is then revealed, elegantly presenting leather goods, accessory collections, and of course, items devoted to the art of travel.

Lastly, a sophisticated salon invites clients to relax next to an open fire and a Christmas Trunk composed of 35 exquisite pieces celebrate the know-how and magic of the Maison's special orders.

The store, a subtle mix of the architectural traditions of Louis Vuitton and the village of Gstaad, evokes refinement, luxury, and a poetic journey to the heart of the Alpine valleys." □